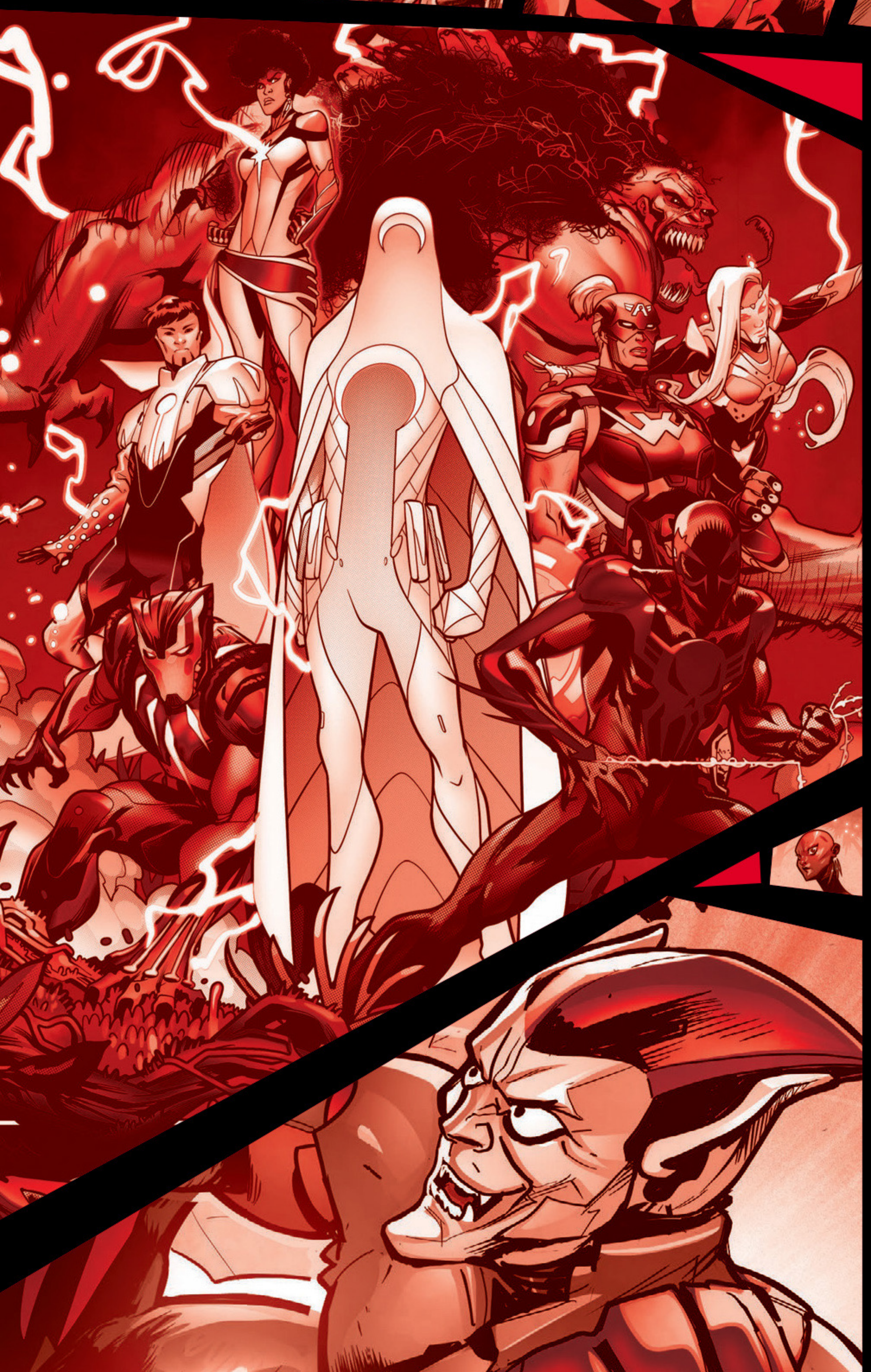
SPIDER-MAN

2099: EXODUS

"A bold, bright, loud techno-future experience." – AIPT

MARVEL

SPIDER-MAN 2099:
EXODUS



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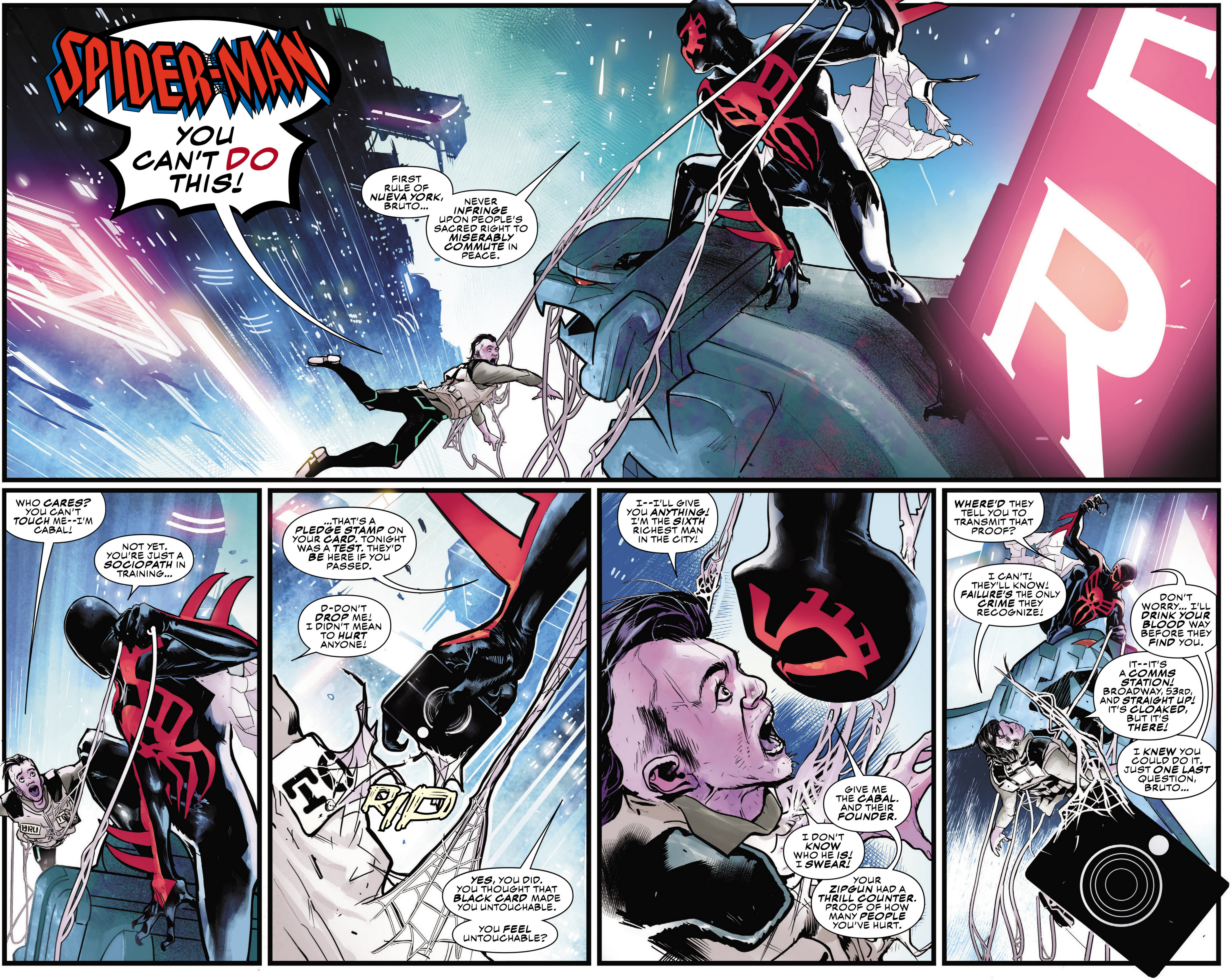
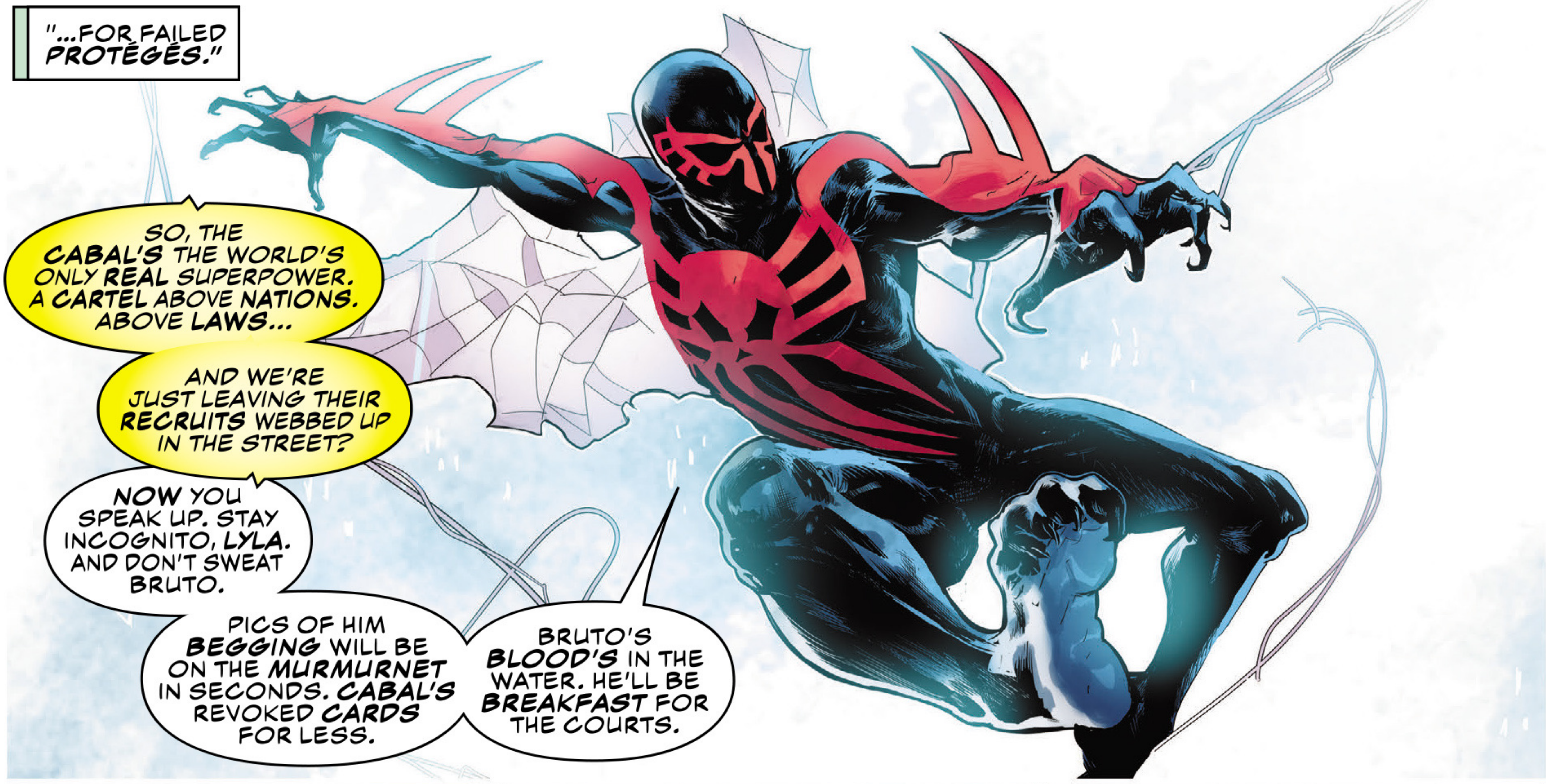
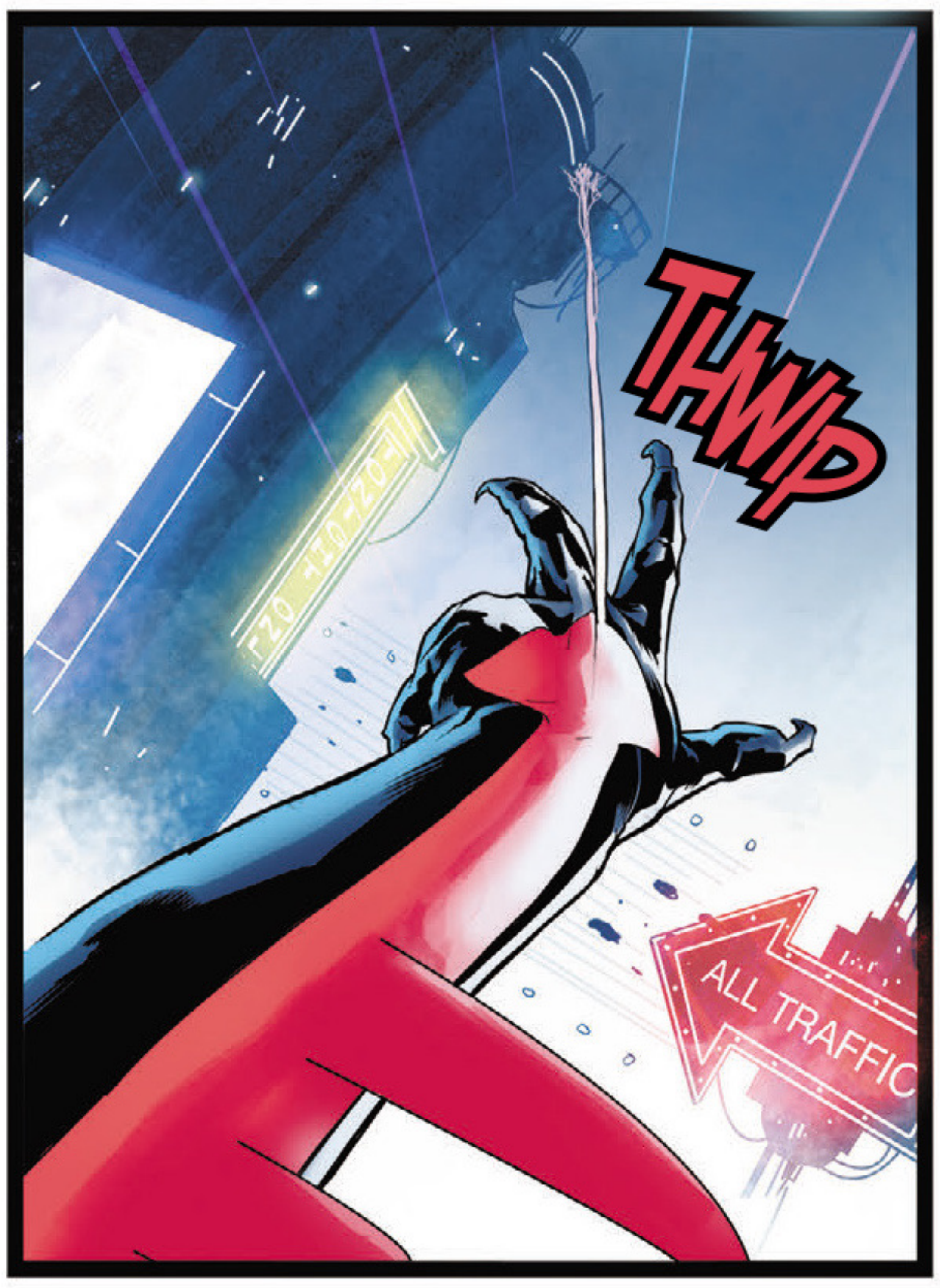
ALPHA

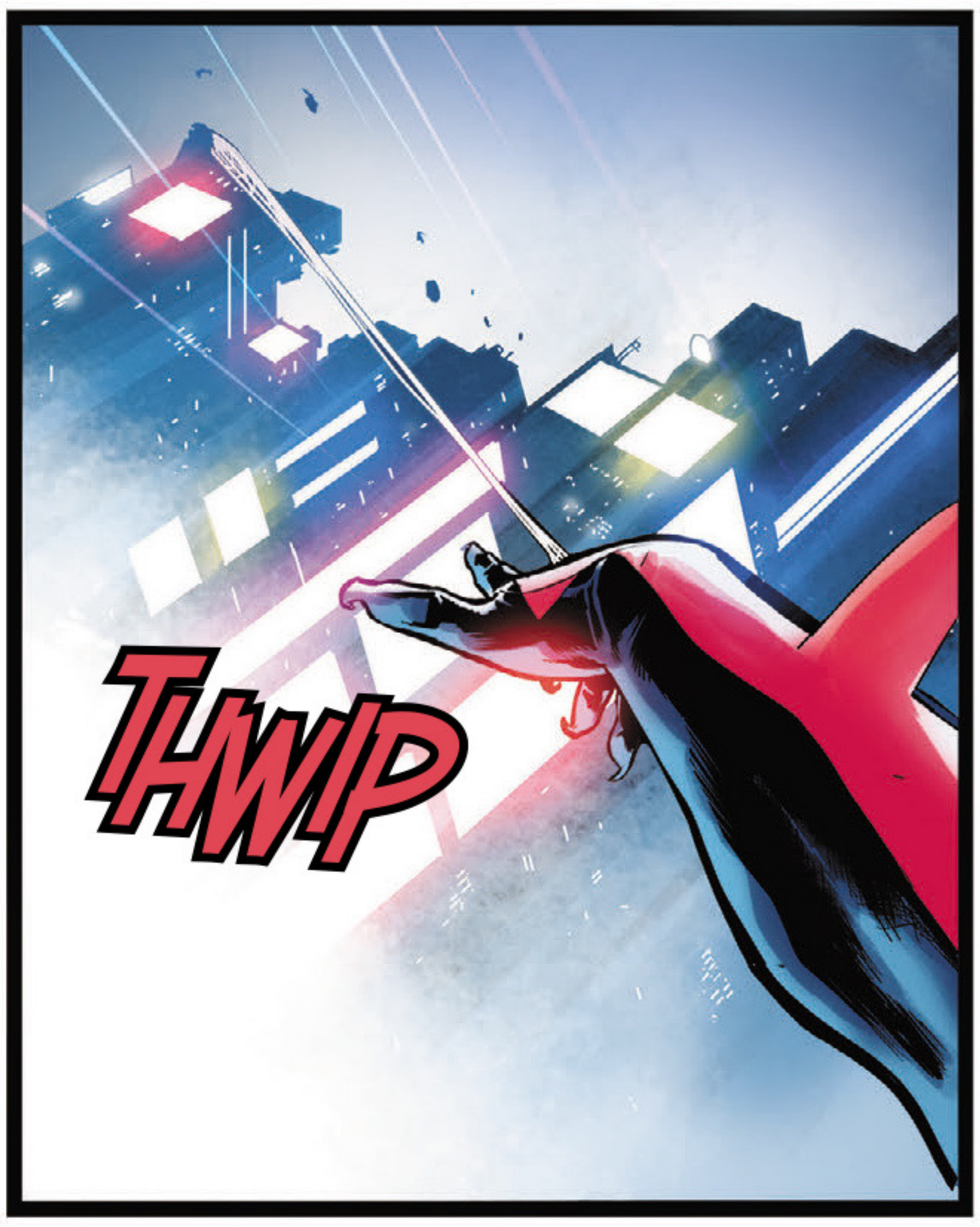
NUEVA YORK. THE LIGHTWELDING DISTRICT.
CAN WE GO SEE THE GLOW LOOMS, DAD? PLEASE?
SURE! AS LONG AS WE'RE HOME BEFORE YOUR MOTHER--
OPEN
NO PARKING
BAR
DAD?!
CHUKK
COME ON, GARBAGE PICKERS... TRY TO MAKE IT INTERESTING!
FREEZE! PUBLIC EYE!
SEE THIS CARD? CARE TO RETHINK THOSE WORDS?!
SORRY, SIR! DIDN'T SEE YOU WERE A CABAL PLEDGE.
NOW SHOCK OFF! I'M TRYING TO MAKE MY NUMBERS--
WHA--?!
THWIP
"HEY!
"DON'T YOU KNOW WHO I AM?"

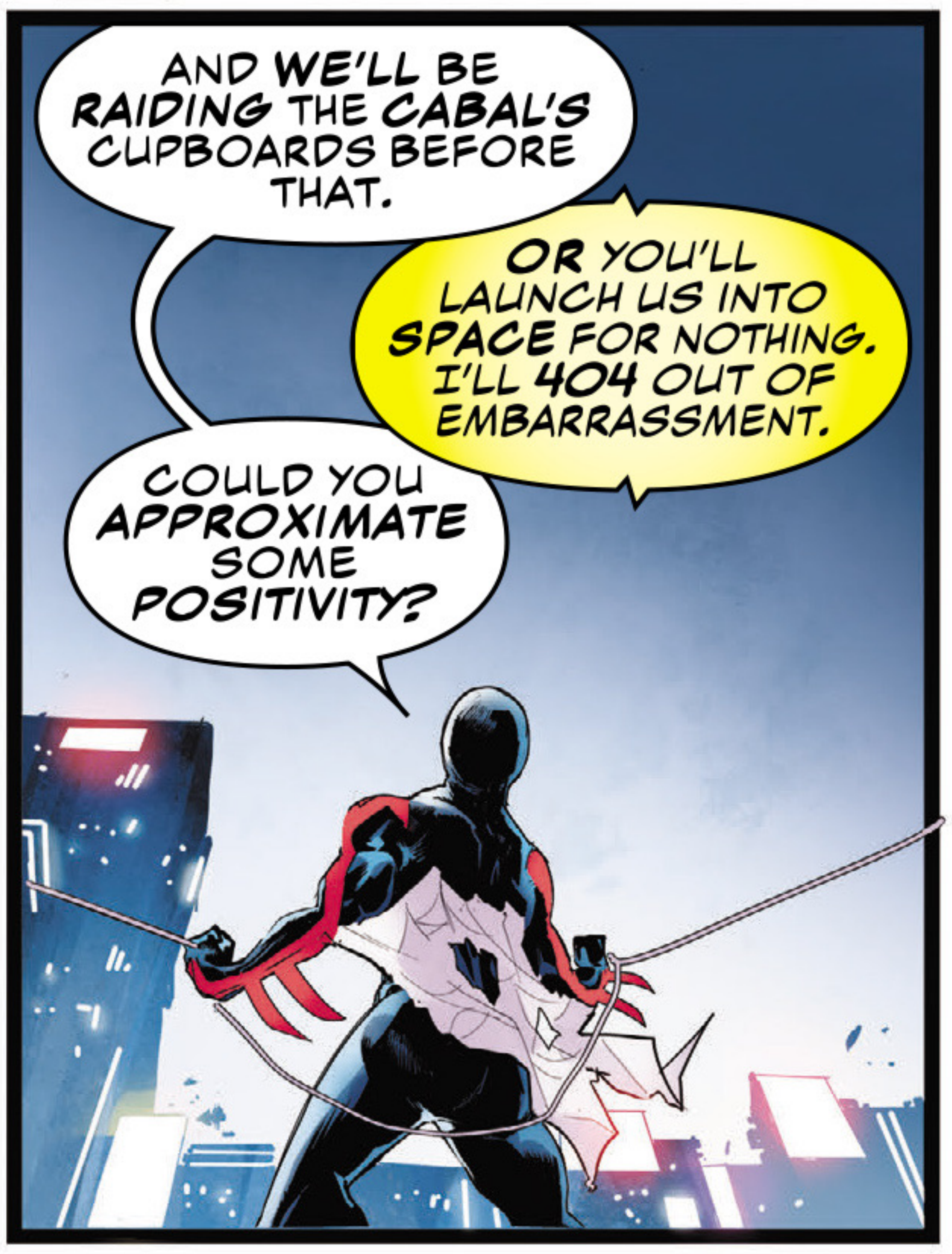

SPIDER-MAN
YOU CAN'T DO THIS!
FIRST RULE OF NUEVA YORK, BRUTO...
NEVER INFRINGE UPON PEOPLE'S SACRED RIGHT TO MISERABLY COMMUTE IN PEACE.
WHO CARES? YOU CAN'T TOUCH ME--I'M CABAL!
NOT YET. YOU'RE JUST A SOCIOPATH IN TRAINING...
...THAT'S A PLEDGE STAMP ON YOUR CARD. TONIGHT WAS A TEST. THEY'D BE HERE IF YOU PASSED.
D-DON'T DROP ME! I DIDN'T MEAN TO HURT ANYONE!
RIP
YES, YOU DID. YOU THOUGHT THAT BLACK CARD MADE YOU UNTOUCHABLE.
YOU FEEL UNTOUCHABLE?
I--I'LL GIVE YOU ANYTHING! I'M THE SIXTH RICHEST MAN IN THE CITY!
GIVE ME THE CABAL. AND THEIR FOUNDER.
I DON'T KNOW WHO HE IS! I SWEAR!
YOUR ZIPGUN HAD A THRILL COUNTER. PROOF OF HOW MANY PEOPLE YOU'VE HURT.
WHERE'D THEY TELL YOU TO TRANSMIT THAT PROOF?
I CAN'T! THEY'LL KNOW! FAILURE'S THE ONLY CRIME THEY RECOGNIZE!
DON'T WORRY... I'LL DRINK YOUR BLOOD WAY BEFORE THEY FIND YOU.
IT--IT'S A COMMS STATION! BROADWAY, 53RD, AND STRAIGHT UP! IT'S CLOAKED, BUT IT'S THERE!
I KNEW YOU COULD DO IT. JUST ONE LAST QUESTION, BRUTO...

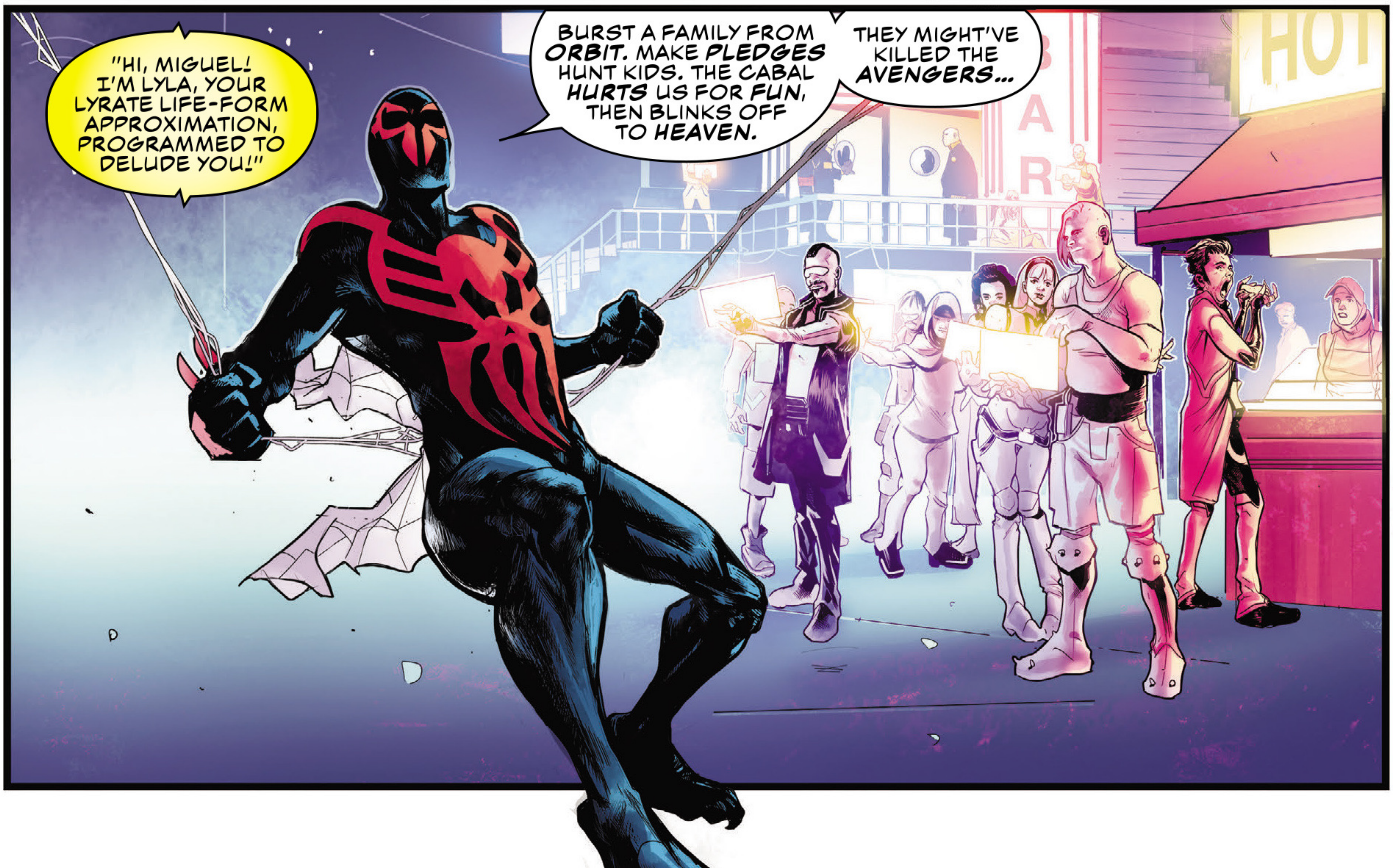
...HOW'S THAT CARD WORK AGAINST GRAVITY?
NOIR
MUSIC
ALL NIGHT
STOP
NO!
STRETCH
HELP!
pit
CLIP
SHOULD...WE BE POSTING THIS?
THE CABAL'S GOING TO BE ALL OVER US.
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
LIKE THEY'D SHOW FOR THIS LOSS? DEVILS DON'T COME UP FROM HELL...


"...FOR FAILED PROTÉGÉS."
SO, THE CABAL'S THE WORLD'S ONLY REAL SUPERPOWER. A CARTEL ABOVE NATIONS. ABOVE LAWS...
AND WE'RE JUST LEAVING THEIR RECRUITS WEBBED UP IN THE STREET?
NOW YOU SPEAK UP. STAY INCOGNITO, LYLA. AND DON'T SWEAT BRUTO.
PICS OF HIM BEGGING WILL BE ON THE MURMURNET IN SECONDS. CABAL'S REVOKED CARDS FOR LESS.
BRUTO'S BLOOD'S IN THE WATER. HE'LL BE BREAKFAST FOR THE COURTS.


THWIP
ALL TRAFFIC


THWIP


AND WE'LL BE RAIDING THE CABAL'S CUPBOARDS BEFORE THAT.
OR YOU'LL LAUNCH US INTO SPACE FOR NOTHING. I'LL 404 OUT OF EMBARRASSMENT.
COULD YOU APPROXIMATE SOME POSITIVITY?


"HI, MIGUEL! I'M LYLA, YOUR LYRATE LIFE-FORM APPROXIMATION, PROGRAMMED TO DELUDE YOU!"
BURST A FAMILY FROM ORBIT. MAKE PLEDGES HUNT KIDS. THE CABAL HURTS US FOR FUN, THEN BLINKS OFF TO HEAVEN.
THEY MIGHT'VE KILLED THE AVENGERS...
BAR
HOT

...BUT THEY CAN'T STOP NUEVA YORK.

WHAM
SCHUNK
THERE IT IS.
BRUTO WASN'T LYING.
EMERGENCY HATCH
PERCEIVED THREATS OF DEATH WILL DO THAT.
CLOAKING'S CRACKED. TELEMETRY?
NO LIFE SIGNS. BUT THERE'S BOUND TO BE--
ALERT-- ALERT-- ALERT--
--ALARMS. GOT IT.
BEGIN DATA STERILIZATION.
POWER DRAIN'S CONCENTRATED AT--
MOLECULAR COMPRESSION IN THIRTEEN--
THE STATION CENTER. ALREADY THERE.
THIS ISN'T JUST A COMMS STATION. IT'S A TRAP.
DNA
--TWELVE--
GOOD THING I STOLE BRUTO'S KEY.
DNA RECOGNIZED. WELCOME, PLEDGE BRUTO OLAFSEN.
--ELEVEN--
NOW, BEFORE WE'RE CRUSHED TO PASTE, LYLA...

IMPACT IMMINENT
ALERT
ALERT
--TEN--
...LET'S SEE WHAT THE **CABAL** DOES UP HERE BESIDES **TEST PLEDGES.**
--NINE--
LOOKS LIKE DEEP SCANNING. A **MAGNETOKINETIC** ARRAY--
--EIGHT--
--AND A STELLAR MASS ON A CUSTOM **COLLISION COURSE** WITH EARTH. THE ONTARIO EXPANSE.
--SEVEN--
IMPACT IN--
--SIX--
SIX SECONDS. SAME AS THIS STATION. THIS PLACE WAS GOING TO IMPLODE WITH **BRUTO** INSIDE.
HIS **INITIATION** WAS JUST A **CRUEL JOKE.**
BUT DROPPING A **SPACE ROCK** ONTO WHAT'S **LEFT** OF AMERICA'S **IRRADIATED** HEARTLANDS?
--FIVE--
FOR THEM, THAT'S **STRANGE** AND **NEW.**

WHY THIS ASTEROID, LYLA? THERE'RE THOUSANDS.
--FOUR--
WAIT-- YOU READING THIS?
--THREE--
THEY'VE GOT MORE STATIONS. THEY'RE SCANNING THE WHOLE PLANET.
--TWO--
OR TRYING...
I'M SEEING DEAD ZONES.
AND ONE LAST BATCH OF HEAVILY ENCRYPTED FILES.
ALERT
BETTER TAKE THEM TO GO.
--ONE--
BLIP
THAT'S IT? IT'S SO QUIET.
SHOCK ME FOR NOT WANTING TO BE FOLDED INTO NONEXISTENCE.
BUT IF YOU WANT NOISE...

"...KEEP AN EAR TO THE WASTES...
BRAKOOOOM
"...AND WAIT FOR THE IMPACT."

BOOM. 400 MILES NORTHWEST.
ONTARIO EXPLOSION
BREAKING ON THE HOT 60--YOUR NEWS, EVERY SIXTY SECONDS!
WE'RE LIVE OVER THE ONTARIO EXPANSE, WHERE AN EXPLOSION HAS ROCKED WHAT WAS ONCE A MEGALAKE...
WITH DEBRIS STRETCHING FROM TRAVERSE TO NUEVA YORK, MEMESTERS HAVE DUBBED IT THE ONTARIO IMPACT!
RRRRUMBLE
BREAKING NEWS: HUGE EXPLOSION
BREAKING NEWS: HUGE EXPLOSION
LEADERS AND CORPORATIONS RACE TO PASS BLAME...
...WITH OPALON VETIVER, C.E.O. OF GREEN GLOBE PARTNERS, ACCUSING ALCHEMAX OF RED GONE WRONG...
...CITING THE CRASH'S IMMEDIATE MUTAGENIC EFFECTS ON THE TERRAIN...
...THE LATEST IN A LINE OF WILD CLAIMS LEVELED BY THE ACTIVIST FUND.
TWO MINUTES AND WE'RE POINTING FINGERS. LYLA... GO PUBLIC.
POP
THE CORPORATE POWER PLAYS ARE ALL SMOKE. AND PRESIDENTS CAN FLEX...
...BUT NONE OF THEM WOULD CROSS THE CABAL.
WHICH MAKES YOU THINK TAKING ON ITS FOUNDER'S A GOOD IDEA?
SOMEONE'S GOT TO...

"WHAT THE CABAL DID WAS SO BIG, PEOPLE COULDN'T HANDLE IT.
"THEY BUTCHERED THE AVENGERS AS THE WORLD WATCHED.
"SINCE THEN, IT'S BEEN IN A STATE OF PERPETUAL SHOCK.
NCNC
LOCATION ACQUIRED: ONTARIO EXPANSE.
EXOTIC RADIATION DETECTED.
"SO NOW WHEN THEY CHOKE US, USE US, OR MUTATE OUR LAND WITH SOME COSMIC ROCK...
"...PEOPLE WOULD RATHER JUST IGNORE IT AND HOPE THEY'RE NOT NEXT."
BUT I'VE BEEN NEXT.
WE'RE ONLY SWINGING BECAUSE ALCHEMAX USED ME LIKE A LAB RAT.
I WOULDN'T BE THEIR TOOL. AND I WON'T TOLERATE THE CABAL. I CAN'T.

HOPEFULLY, I'M NOT ALONE IN THAT.
YOU MAKE SOME FRIENDS WHEN I WAS OFFLINE?
MAP AND MATCH IT, LYLA.
THE DEAD ZONE FROM THE CABAL'S COMMS STATION.
MUST'VE PASSED BY THIS PLACE A HUNDRED TIMES. ALL I SAW WAS ANOTHER EYESORE...
...BUT SOMEHOW, THE CABAL SCANNERS COULDN'T SEE IT.
HEY! IF THEY CAN'T SCAN HERE, THEN I--VZZT--
BONE INDUCTION'S STILL RECORDING, LYLA. I'LL CATCH YOU UP ON THE OTHER SIDE.
THERE'S A WHOLE NEIGHBORHOOD UNDER THIS SPIRE, HIDDEN FROM THE CABAL.
ANYONE WHO CAN DO THAT COULD DECRYPT THE CABAL'S FILES...
...I HOPE.
SPIDER... GET INSIDE.
OF COURSE.
YOU WOULD BE THE ONE HAUNTING A DEAD ZONE...

...GHOST RIDER.
YOU SHOULDN'T BE HERE.
AND YOU AREN'T.
SWIPE
SPOKEN LIKE A TRUE CORPOREAL. THE GHOST SPIRE'S MY BODY NOW. ONE OF THEM. AND IT READ YOUR BIOMETRICS AT THE DOOR.
SO LOSE THE MASK, O'HARA.

HEARD YOU WERE NYUGDIJAS, COCHRANE.
I DIDN'T RETIRE. I EVOLVED. NOW I GO WHERE DATA GOES.
THAT INCLUDE ONTARIO?
THE IMPACT. NO SERVICE IN THE WASTES, BUT IT'S LIGHTING UP THE HOT 60.
I SAW IT FROM A CABAL STATION. THEY MADE THAT CRATER. AND I THINK THIS MIGHT SHOW US WHY.
A MYSTERIUM DATADRIVE. ENCRYPTED...BUT CRACKABLE.
THE CRASH SITE'S MUTATING LOCAL MATTER. BIRTHING NEW ELEMENTS. NEW CONSPIRACIES.
THE TRAANIAN PARANOIA CURVE GIVES US DAYS AT BEST BEFORE THE FEAR RIOTS START...
MY PEOPLE ARE THE UNHOMED, THE UNWANTED, THOSE THE MIDCLASS LIKES TO FORGET...
THEY'RE HERE FOR SAFETY. I CAN HIDE THEM FROM DIGITAL EYES. BUT NOT NAKED ONES.
I'LL HELP. BUT AFTER THE QUEST...I WANT YOU GONE BEFORE THE CABAL CAN COME LOOKING.
QUEST?
THAT'S RIGHT. THE DRIVE'S QUEST ENCRYPTED.
DEEP SYNTHETIC REALITY.
TO DECRYPT IT...

"...YOU NEED TO DEFEAT IT."
IS THAT A CAVE TROLL?!
IT'S NOT LIKE I WROTE THE ENCRYPTION.
YOU'LL HAVE TO TALK TO THE MANAGEMENT.
I PLAN TO. ALL THE SAME...

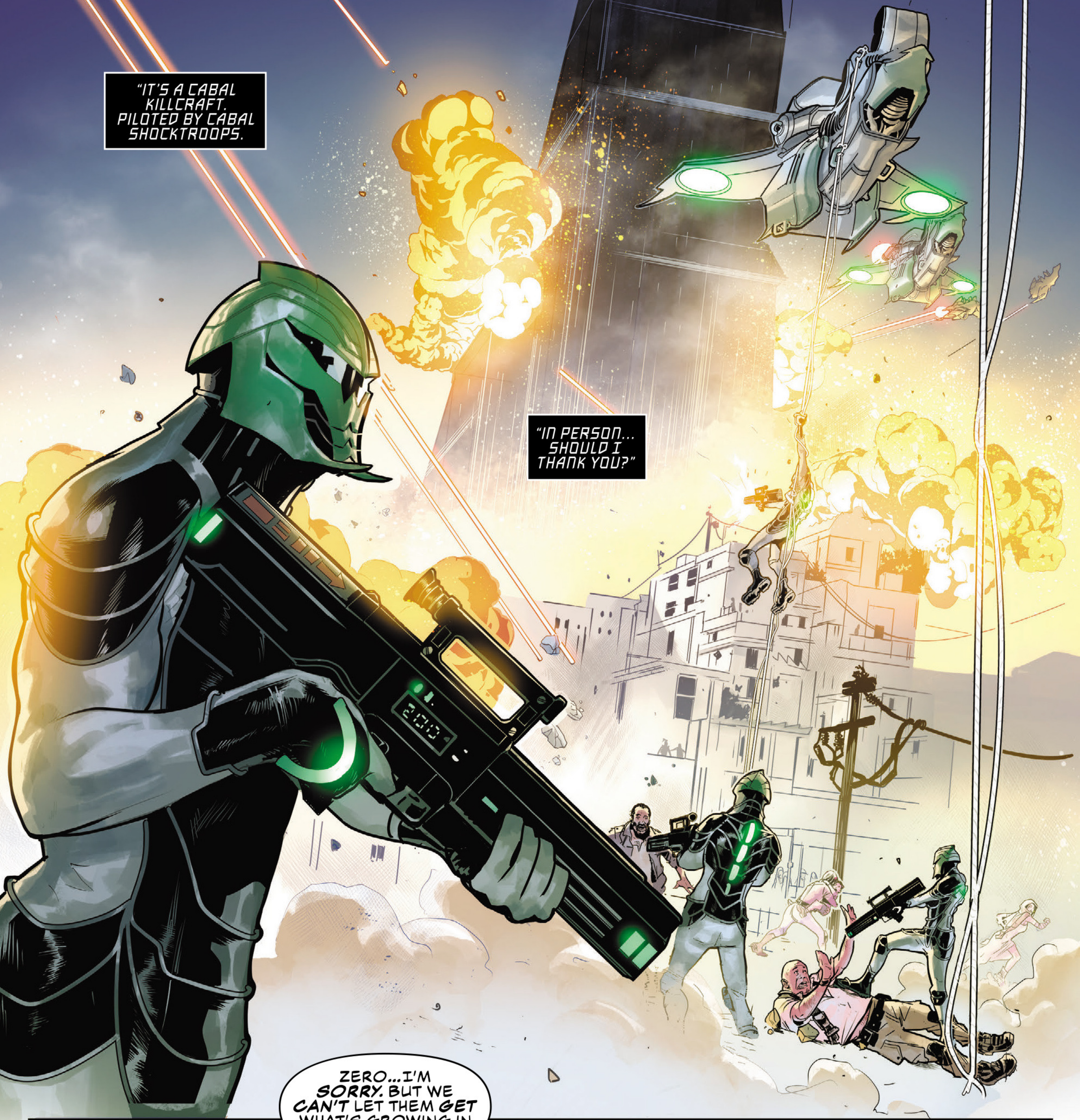
...DIDN'T PEG THE CABAL FOR FANTASY FANS.
OPULENCE. WHEN THE WORLD'S YOUR FIEFDOM...
...NO SURPRISE YOU GET MEDIEV--
ALGHK?!
I SHOULD THANK YOU, TROLL.
GHOST RIDER'S ONE HELL OF A SMUG HOLOGRAM.
BUT TODAY... I COULD'VE USED THE HELP.
UNLESS YOU WANT TO JUST GIVE UP THE DATA?

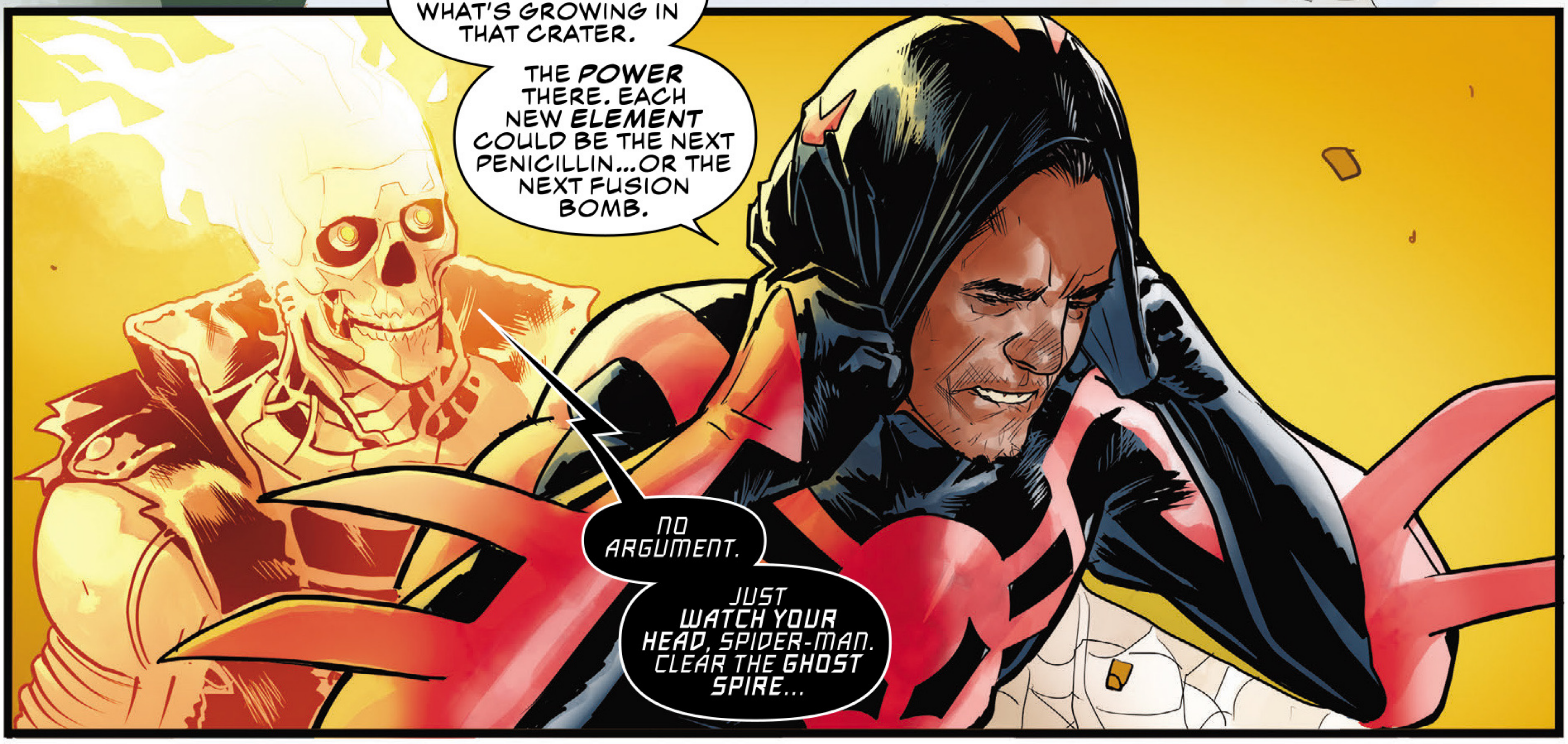
RRRROOOAR!
NOTED.
YOU KNOW, RIDER...
I WAS WRONG.
NYAAAAAAOOOOR!
I DO HAVE A USE FOR YOU.
SCHUNK
DEFEAT TO DECRYPT.
DEFEATED. SO HOW ABOUT THAT--
FIZZLE POP POP

SPLATCHOOM
--DECRYPTION?
DECOYS... IT'S NEVER JUST ABOUT SLAYING THE MONSTER.
SO MANY CHOICES. AND IF I'M WRONG... THAT COULD BE IT.
THE REAL FILE WON'T BE SUBTLE. THE CABAL'S AN OPEN SECRET.
THEY LIKE US KNOWING THEY CAN DO WHAT THEY WANT TO US, THAT WE'RE--
GLOW
--OUT OF SIGHT.
OKAY...
BUILD
CRACK
PROOF
DEBUT
CULTURE
FROZEN
DANCE
DEET
...LET'S SEE WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT THEIR ROCK.

IF...IT'S EVEN A ROCK AT ALL.
JOVION THE ENACTOR.
A CELESTIAL. SOME KIND OF SPACE GOD... WITH A CITY-SIZED CHEST WOUND.
AND A BULLET INSIDE. THAT STATION HAD MAGNETOKINETICS...
THEY PULLED IT HERE TO COLLECT THE BODY. LIKE A COSMIC WHALE FALL.
THE CRATER'S SPROUTING UP LIKE A WEIRD EDEN. BUT THEY HAVEN'T HARVESTED IT--
CHOOM CHA--CHOOM CHOOM
--YET?
NO! TOO SOON! I WAS JUST GETTING--

--WHAT I NEED!
WREE WREE WREE
VWIT
SORRY TO PULL YOU...
BRAKKA BOOM BOOM BOOM
...THOUGHT THE GUNFIRE MIGHT BE OF INTEREST.
TAKE A LOOK. I'LL SLOW DOWN THE FEED FOR THE TERRESTRIALLY BRAINED.
NO NEED.
I'VE BEEN READING NUMBERSPEAK SINCE I WAS A KID.
“THIS IS RETALIATION, O'HARA.”
THEY FOLLOWED YOU. THEY KNOW WE FOUND THEIR NEW GOD-GARDEN.
AND THESE AREN'T ACROPHOBIC PLEDGES...


"IT'S A CABAL KILLCRAFT, PILOTED BY CABAL SHOCKTROOPS.
"IN PERSON... SHOULD I THANK YOU?"


ZERO...I'M SORRY. BUT WE CAN'T LET THEM GET WHAT'S GROWING IN THAT CRATER.
THE POWER THERE. EACH NEW ELEMENT COULD BE THE NEXT PENICILLIN...OR THE NEXT FUSION BOMB.
NO ARGUMENT.
JUST WATCH YOUR HEAD, SPIDER-MAN. CLEAR THE GHOST SPIRE...

"...AND PROTECT MY PEOPLE."
ZAT ZAT ZAT
KACHOOM
RUN. HIDE. BOTTOM-FEEDERS LIKE YOU ARE ALL LIVING ON BORROWED TIME.
YOU ONLY MADE IT THIS FAR BECAUSE THERE'S NO SPORT IN WIPING FILTH OFF A BOOT!
YOU THINK WE'RE HIDING? YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE COME HERE...
PEOPLE CAN ONLY BE KICKED DOWN FOR SO LONG!
I PROMISE YOU.
WE'RE FAR FROM DONE KICKING.
NEITHER ARE WE.
LIKE THE GHOST SAID...

"...WATCH YOUR HEAD."
BOOM

KATHOOOM
THE KILLCRAFT.
NO...
NOWHERE TO SWIPE THOSE CARDS NOW, BOYS... YOU'RE WAY OFF THE MAP.
WE OWN THE MAP! DON'T YOU GET IT? I'M A MANFREDI!
THWIP--SMACK
TRY AGAIN.
YOU THINK WE CARE ABOUT YOU?
THIS WASN'T FREEDOM! LIVING IN TRASH JUST MAKES YOU EASIER TO BURY.
I THINK THERE'S A BETTER CHANCE OF YOU GETTING BURIED, RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW...
...UNLESS YOU GIVE UP YOUR FOUNDER.
YOU WANT THE CABAL'S FOUNDER?

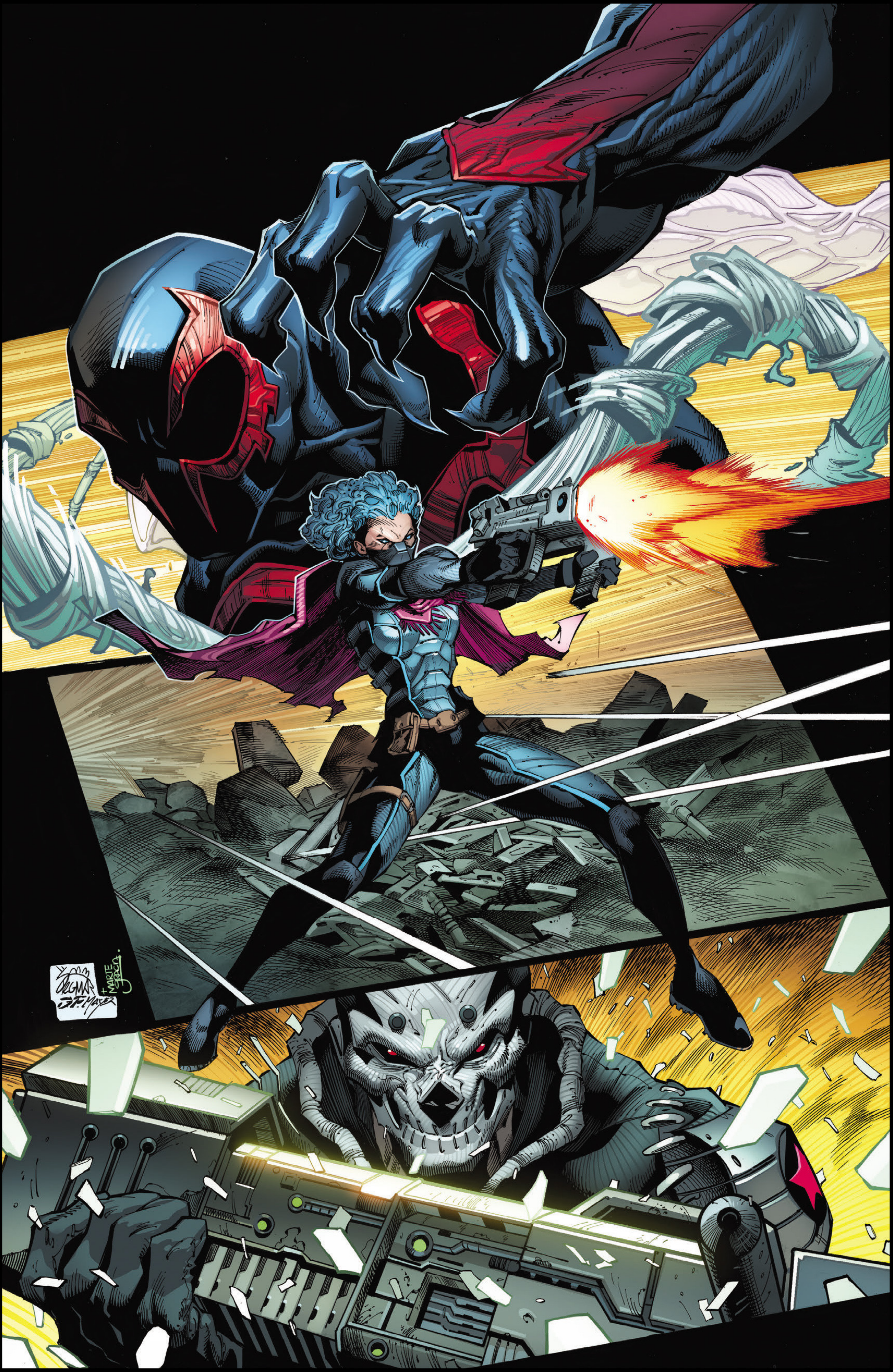
YOU'LL ALL KNOW HIM SOON ENOUGH!
NOT THAT WE'LL BE HERE TO SEE IT. FAILURE...
NO!
...IS THE ONLY CRIME WE RECOGNIZE.
CRUNCH
THE CELESTIAL GARDEN IS OURS.
HOW? WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH THAT CRATER?!
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO DO THIS! YOU--
SPLAT
WHAT... WHAT DID THEY--?
DEATH TOOTH. CELLULAR CYANIDE... INSTANT PLASMA REVERSION.
SLOSH

...BUT THERE'LL BE MORE.
I'M SORRY.
YOU CAN'T STAY HERE.
YOU THINK WE DON'T KNOW THAT? WE GAVE IT ALL UP...
...JUST FOR THE PRIVILEGE OF NOT HAVING TO WORRY ABOUT SOME RICH SHOCK CUTTING OUR THROATS.
NOW THE GHOST SPIRE'S GONE! THEY CAN SEE US...THANKS TO YOU!
...YOU'RE RIGHT. I OWE YOU YOUR SAFETY.
WELL...YOU CAN START BY GETTING US TO THE TRAVERSE CITY SPIRE ALIVE.
THAT'S NOT NOTHING... BUT IT'S TEMPORARY. I'LL GET YOU TO TRANSVERSE.
THEN I'LL SHUT DOWN THE CABAL FOR GOOD. EVEN IF I HAVE TO RIP THEM FROM HEAVEN.
POP
ANY BANDWIDTH FOR POSITIVE NEWS, LYLA?
NOT IF YOU DON'T WANT ME TO LIE.
DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THE CABAL PLANS ON COMING DOWN FROM HEAVEN.
IT JUST HIT THE MURMURNET. A HOT BOUNTY...

"...TO STAKE THEIR *CLAIM* ON THE *CELESTIAL GARDEN.*"
"WHAT'S THE *OFFER?*"
SOMETHING *ONLY THEY HAVE.*
SOMETHING EVERYONE FROM THE STREETS ON UP WOULD *KILL* FOR...
CABAL MEMBERSHIP.
...THERE'LL BE *BLOOD.* TOO *MANY* WOULD *MURDER* FOR THAT SPOT, AND THEY KNOW IT.
THE CABAL JUST PUT THE *WHOLE WORLD* BETWEEN *US* AND *THEM.*
A BOUNTY LIKE *THAT* WOULD NEED TO BE *GENOSTAMPED* FOR *AUTHENTICITY.*

"IT IS. BY THE CABAL'S FOUNDER.
"MIGUEL...I'M SORRY I COULDN'T BE THERE DURING THE QUEST DECRYPTION.
"I'VE BEEN REVIEWING THE BACKUPS...
"...AND CROSS-REFERENCING WITH HISTORICAL LOGS.
"IF I'D BEEN THERE, MAYBE I COULD'VE SEEN IT..."
"WHO POSTED THE BOUNTY, LYLA? WHO'S THE FOUNDER?"
"HE'S SHOWN HIMSELF, JUST LIKE MANFREDI SAID.
"BUT HE WAS ALREADY TAUNTING US. WITH THE PLEDGES, WITH THE ENCRYPTION.
"IT WASN'T A TROLL YOU FOUGHT IN THERE, MIGUEL...

"...IT WAS A GREEN GOBLIN."

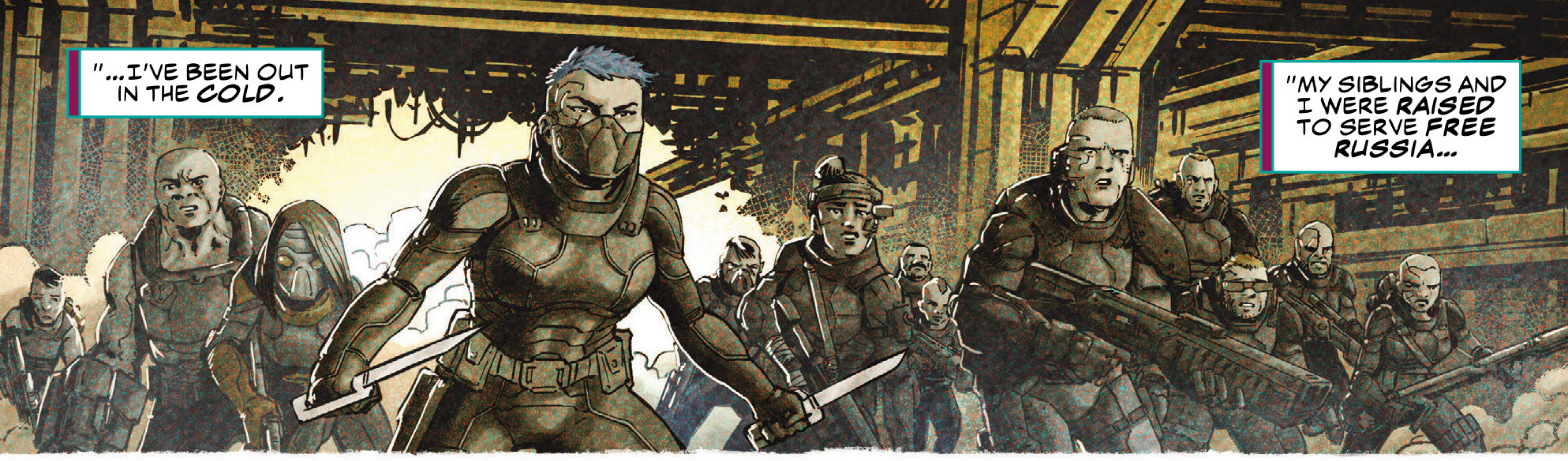


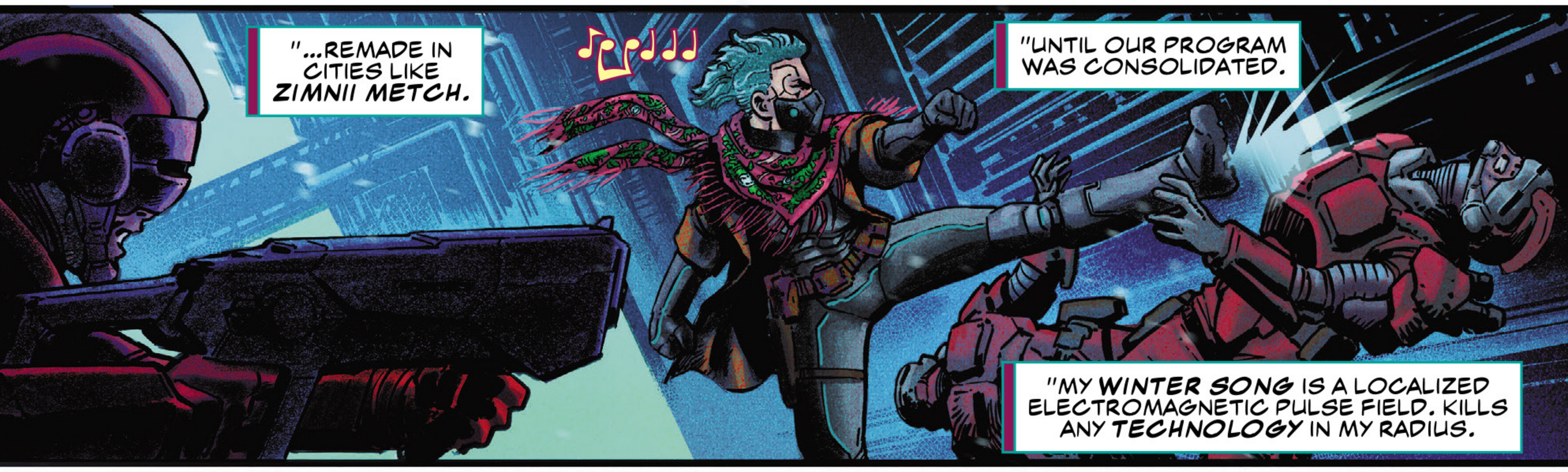
J.P. Mayer
+ MARTE GRACIA

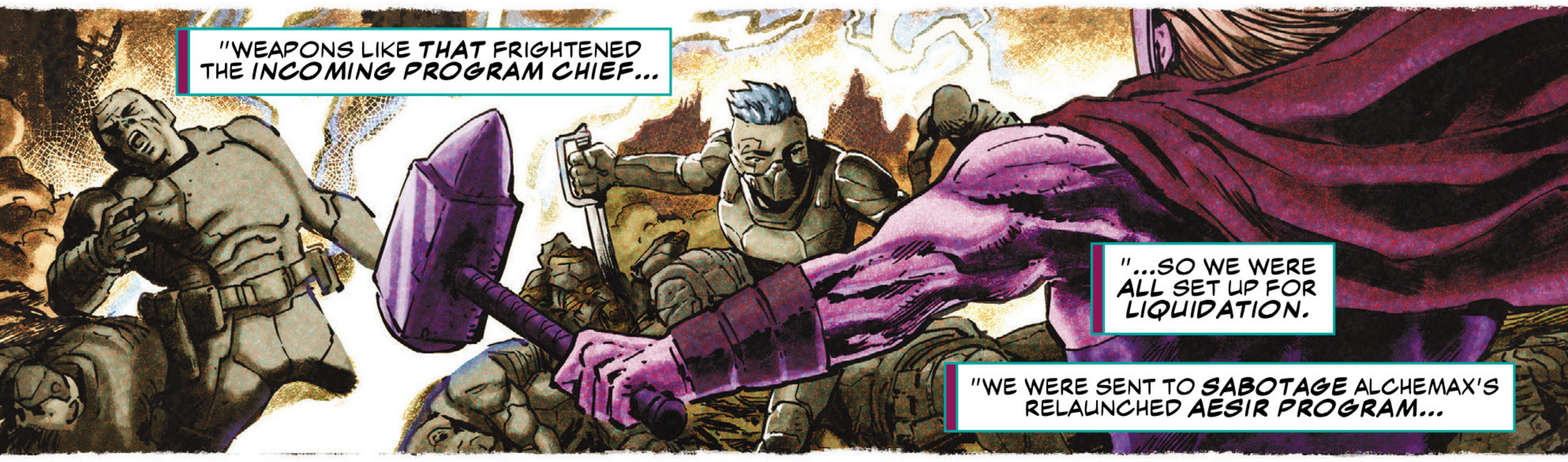
1

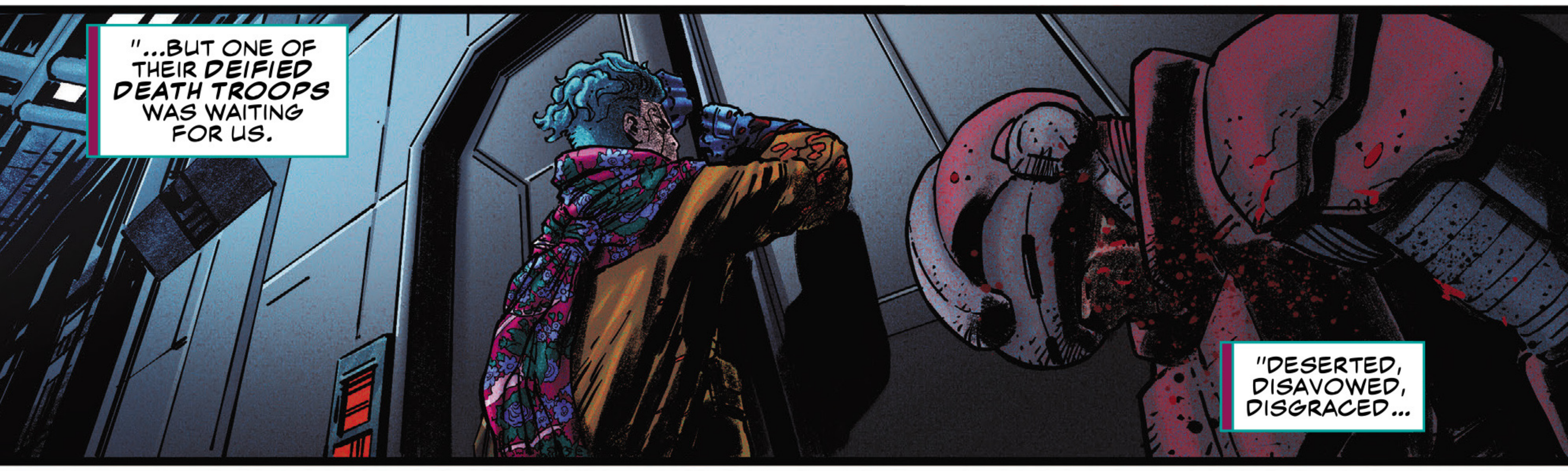
TRANSVERSE CITY.
DIDN'T THINK YOU'D HOP A TELETRAIN TO THE TRANSVERSE, SPIDER.
I GOT YOUR PEOPLE HERE SAFELY. I OWED YOU FOR THE PAIN I CAUSED...BUT THAT'S NOT ALL. I NEED YOUR HELP.
NORMAN OSBORN'S ALIVE, SOMEHOW. HE'S PUT A BOUNTY ON THE CELESTIAL GARDEN. WHOEVER GETS THERE AND SECURES IT FOR HIM...
...BECOMES THE NEWEST MEMBER OF HIS CABAL.
AND YOU WANT TO KNOW HOW TO STOP HIM.
OSBORN'S BOUNTY WILL HAVE MOTHERS GUTTING SONS. WE STOP THAT FIRST.
THERE COULD BE A WAY. AN EX-SOLDIER...WITH A STANDING OFFER ON THE MURMURNET.
TRADES WET WORK FOR INTEL. THE KIND YOU'D NEVER HAVE. BUT I DO. AND YOU DID HELP MY PEOPLE.
GIVE HER WHAT SHE WANTS? SHE'LL KILL OSBORN'S BOUNTY...
...EVEN IF SHE'S GOT TO BRING DOWN THE WHOLE MURMURNET WITH IT.
OSBORN'S GOT TO BE STOPPED, GHOST RIDER...

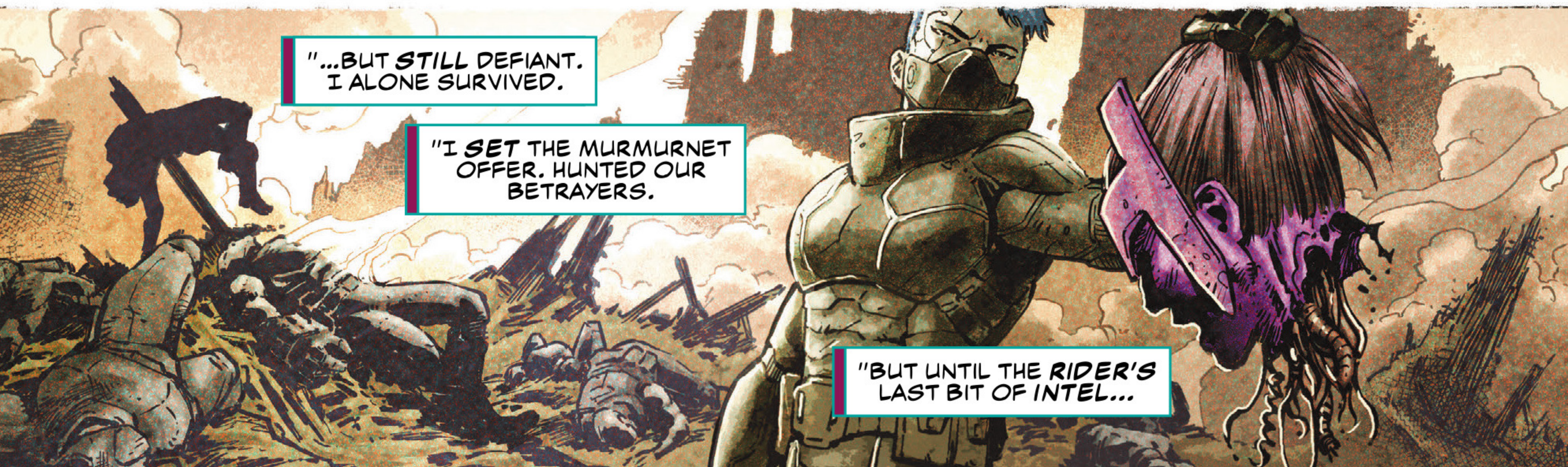
"...SEND THE **SOLDIER** THE INTEL SHE NEEDS."
ZIMNII METCH. SIBERIA. THE FREE RUSSIAN ALLIANCE.
"IT'S BEEN A **HARD WALK.**
"AND WITH EVERY LIFE TAKEN, I'VE BEEN BUILDING A **MEMORIAL** TO THE **PAST.**
"I AM THE LAST **WINTER SOLDIER.**
"AND FOR **TOO LONG...**


"...I'VE BEEN OUT IN THE COLD.
"MY SIBLINGS AND I WERE RAISED TO SERVE FREE RUSSIA...


"...REMADE IN CITIES LIKE ZIMNII METCH.
"UNTIL OUR PROGRAM WAS CONSOLIDATED.
"MY WINTER SONG IS A LOCALIZED ELECTROMAGNETIC PULSE FIELD. KILLS ANY TECHNOLOGY IN MY RADIUS.


"WEAPONS LIKE THAT FRIGHTENED THE INCOMING PROGRAM CHIEF...
"...SO WE WERE ALL SET UP FOR LIQUIDATION.
"WE WERE SENT TO SABOTAGE ALCHEMAX'S RELAUNCHED AESIR PROGRAM...


"...BUT ONE OF THEIR DEIFIED DEATH TROOPS WAS WAITING FOR US.
"DESERTED, DISAVOWED, DISGRACED...


"...BUT STILL DEFIANT. I ALONE SURVIVED.
"I SET THE MURMURNET OFFER. HUNTED OUR BETRAYERS.
"BUT UNTIL THE RIDER'S LAST BIT OF INTEL...

"...THE LAST NAME ON MY LIST EVADED ME."
CHIEF WOLAND.
WINTER SOLDIER 13.
HOW MANY PEOPLE DID YOU KILL TO GET HERE?
NOT AS MANY AS YOU KILLED TO GET ME HERE.
NO GUN? I'M INSULTED. THAT BLACK CARD CAN'T STOP A FIST.
AND WHAT GOOD WOULD A RIFLE BE THIS CLOSE TO YOU?
BUT I DO HAVE A WEAPON. SOMETHING YOUR WINTER SONG CAN'T TOUCH...

YOU'RE A PRODUCT. BOUGHT AS **BLACK MARKET SURPLUS** TO BE REBUILT BY THE **TECHNOSMITHS.**
NO **NAME.** NO **STORY.** NO **FAMILY** BUT THE STATE, OR SO YOU **THOUGHT.**
THIS IS YOUR **REAL LIFE,** 13... ALL THE DETAILS, MEMORIES OF IT, **RIGHT HERE.**
...
GIVE ME THE **DATADRIVE.**
I THINK **NOT.** YOU SEE, MY **BLACK CARD** IS BOTH **STICK** AND **CARROT.**
AS A **CABAL PLEDGE,** I HAVE KNOWLEDGE YOU COULDN'T IMAGINE.
THIS **MYSTERIUM DATADRIVE** IS **BROKEN,** BUT IT **COULD** BE HEALED.
...
...HOW?

THE AMERICANS ARE CALLING IT THE ONTARIO IMPACT. FOUNDER OSBORN'S PET PROJECT.
A CELESTIAL GARDEN, WHOSE WATERS HEAL MAN AND MACHINE ALIKE.
I'LL BE GOING WITH YOU, OF COURSE...LEST MY DEATH TRIGGER OUR FAIL-SAFES. AND WE BOTH KNOW NO ONE ESCAPES THE BONEYARD--
CHOT
THUD
I'LL TAKE MY CHANCES.
GOODBYE, WOLAND.
YOUR FRIENDS MIGHT'VE BUILT A COSMIC EDEN...
...BUT YOU'LL NEVER SEE IT.
CLIENT DECEASED.
WAKING THE BONEYARD.

DAYS LATER.
"THE MURDER OF THE AVENGERS EMBOLDENED THE BLACK CARD OLIGARCHS.
"TWO INVISIBLE RUSSIAS NOW EXIST IN THE SAME PLACE. ONLY ONE SUFFERS.
"THE TELETRAINS SKIP DISTANCE WITH JUMP GATES. STATE OF THE ART, FIFTY YEARS AGO.
"THESE DAYS, THE WEALTHY CAN AFFORD AN EVEN FASTER METHOD: INSTANT TRANSPORT.
ФДР
"THE REST TAKE THE LONGER WAY, BEFORE IT FALLS APART.
"BUT AS YOU KNOW, IT'S A GOOD WAY TO PASS UNSEEN...
"...WHEN YOU'RE TRYING TO KEEP PEOPLE AROUND YOU ALIVE.
BOARDING CARD.
HEY.
ФДР
I SAID, BOARDING CARD.

...
THE POCKET.
OFFICER.
WE--WE'RE SORRY! WE DIDN'T KNOW--
JUST SCAN IT.
RIGHT AWAY.
VZZT
BAD ENOUGH I LOST A BET AND HAVE TO RIDE THIS SHOCKWAGON.
VZZT
I.D.'S NOT SCANNING. SOMETHING'S WRONG.
WITH YOUR SCANNER, YOU MEAN... I'M SURE THAT'S WHAT YOU MEAN.
SHOCKING BLACK CARDS ACT LIKE THEY RUN THE WHOLE COUNTRY...
JUST GET HER MOVING, VANYA.
ФДР
...OF COURSE, MA'AM. OUR APOLOGIES.
"SOMETIMES A BLUFF IS CLEANER THAN A BLADE."

ALPINE MEMORIAL FOREST.
JUMP GATE OPENING.
EAT, EAT! AND LOOK AWAY! THE JUMPVOID STEALS YOUR MEMORIES IF YOU STARE.
IF YOU HAVE ANY TO STEAL. BESIDES, THAT'S JUST A SUPERSTITION.
BEST NOT TO TEMPT FATE, MY DEAR. WHERE ARE YOU HEADED?
NUEVA YORK. ALWAYS WANTED TO SEE THE LIGHTWELDING DISTRICT.
TOO BRIGHT FOR ME. I'M MEETING MY GRANDSON IN THE TRANSVERSE.
THEY SAY ITS GHOST SPIRE HIDES YOU FROM THOSE CABAL THIEVES.
YOUR GRANDSON IS LUCKY TO HAVE YOU. I HAVE NO FAMILY MYSELF...
...UNLESS THIS ZAKUSKA IS AN OFFER OF INTENT.
WE'RE ALL FAMILY HERE.
AS LONG AS WE RIDE TOGETHER...
...TAKE WHATEVER YOU LIKE.

JUMP GATE CLOSING.
ENTERING ONTARIO EXPANSE.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR KINDNESS. I'LL REMEMBER IT.
BUT YOU SAID NUEVA YORK-- THERE'S NO STATION HERE!
THE CRASH CURSED THE LAND!
TRUST ME... THIS IS MY STOP.
WELCOME TO THE WASTES, WINTER SOLDIER.
AND THE CROSSHAIRS...

...OF
CROSSBONES.
CHIEF WOLAND SENDS HIS--
--REGARDS?

"EVER HEAR OF THE BONEYARD?
CHOT CHOT
"A CHOP SHOP WHERE GRUNTS ARE BROUGHT BACK FROM THE BRINK OF DEATH...
"...AS CYBORG BLOODHOUNDS.
"CROSSBONES WAS THE WORST OF THEM. HIS RUNDOWNS WERE LEGENDARY.
CHOT
CHOT
CHOT CHOT
CHOT
"HE'D HAVE GLADLY SHREDDED THE WHOLE TRAIN IN THE CROSSFIRE.
"SO I PLAYED THE WILD TARGET UNTIL THE PASSENGERS WERE SAFE.
"I KNEW WHAT I WAS DOING.
CHOT CHOT CHOT CHOT CHOT CHOT CHOT CHOT
"IT WAS MY CHOICE.
"AND THE PAIN THAT CAME NEXT?

"THAT WAS MY CHOICE TOO."
SCHLURK
LIKE THE WINGS OF A FLY.
ACCEPT THIS, WOMAN. AND REMEMBER...
...YOU STILL HAVE THREE LIMBS LEFT TO PLUCK.
AND YOU'VE GOT FOUR.

DEET
SIZZLE
SO LET'S **GET ON** WITH IT.
YOU'LL **NEVER** REACH THE GARDEN...
...NOT WHILE I **LIVE** TO PURSUE YOU!
I KNOW. I READ THE **BRIEF.**
YOU **HUNTER-KILLERS** NEVER STOP.
YOU **HUNT** TO THE DEATH.
BUT THERE'S A **SIMPLE** AND **OBVIOUS** SOLUTION THERE.
KACHOOM
NO **RANGE RIFLE** TO SAVE YOU NOW.
SAY **GOODBYE** TO YOUR **ELECTRIC HEART.**
SAD.
YOU THINK **I** WOULDN'T READ **YOUR** BRIEF TOO?

THOK
EMP SHIELDING.
CUTE.
BUT I'M TOO CLOSE TO GO DOWN FOR A GODJAM GOVERNMENT FRANKENSTEIN.
POP
AS IF YOU AREN'T ONE YOURSELF.
WHAT DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU'LL FIND IN THAT GARDEN?
YOU'RE AN ELECTROMAGNETIC PULSE DEVICE THAT THINKS SHE'S A REAL GIRL.
I KNOW WHAT I AM. I LOVE IT. I'M THE BAD DOG THEY LET LOOSE...
...AND THAT DOG ALWAYS STAYS FED.
YOU WON'T EVEN BE THE FIRST WINTER SOLDIER I'VE KILLED.
BARNES' ARM WAS A USEFUL PRIZE. BUT YOU?

I THINK I'LL TAKE YOUR HEART!
TELL ME WHEN YOU FIND IT.
CRUNCH
BIG TALK...BUT YOUR SONG CAN'T HURT ME! YOU'RE JUST DECOMMISSIONED TECH.
THIS ONLY ENDS IN YOUR DEATH. I NEVER TIRE! I AM METAL WHERE YOU'RE MEAT!
YEAH.
AND SPEAKING OF METAL...
CHORTCH
...A FRIEND LENT ME SOME.
SHICK
SHICK
SHICK
SHICK
SHICK

FRRRZZAAGH
NNNYAAAARGH!

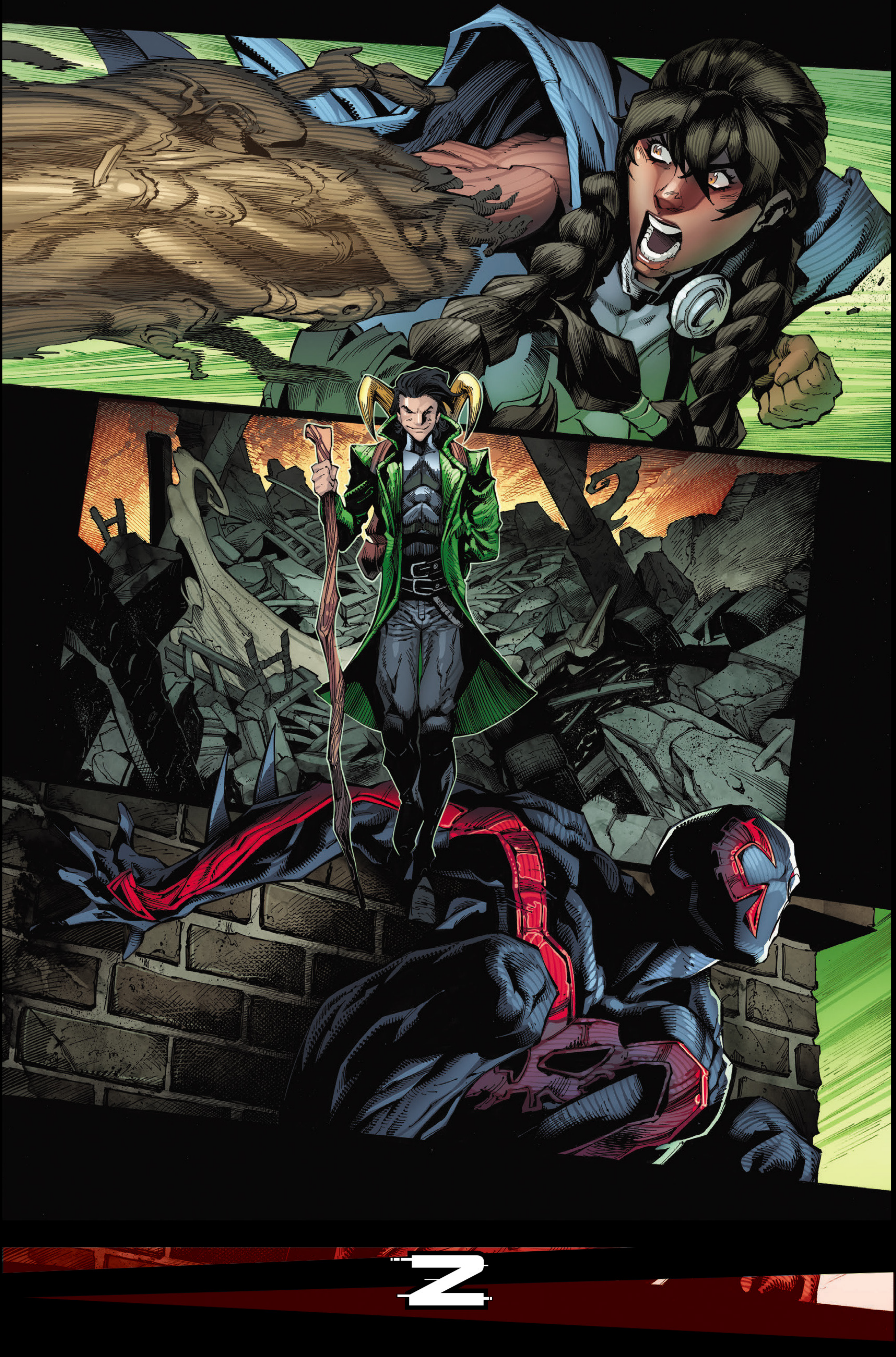
BLYAHDGHK!
I-- FZZT--I'LL-- FZZT FZZT
STAB
A FEW PARTING NOTES, MISTER BONES.
DOGS GET PUT DOWN.
THAT ARM DOESN'T BELONG TO YOU.
AND NEITHER DOES MY PAST.
SO IF YOU'RE DONE...
...I'VE GOT SOMEWHERE TO BE.

THE CELESTIAL GARDEN.
PERFECT.
LOOKS LIKE I'M FIRST IN LINE FOR MY *MIRACLE*.
WON'T BE THIS *QUIET* FOR LONG...
...NOT THAT I'M *STICKING AROUND*.
RIGHT. *MEMORIES*.
LET'S *DOUBLE-CLICK* AND SEE WHAT I'VE BEEN--
DEET DEET

--MISSING.
MY GOD. MY GOD...
THEY'RE RIGHT THERE. IT'S--I CAN ALMOST TOUCH THEM...
IT'S REAL...
...THEY'RE ACTUALLY REAL.
"IT FLOODED BACK SO FAST. THE TERRIBLE AND BEAUTIFUL ALIKE.
"EVERYTHING I FORGOT. EVERYTHING MY CREATORS KNEW. MY LIFE IN STEREO.
"AND WAITING AT THE END...

"...WAS MY *FAMILY.*
"*STRONG* AND *ENDURING...*
"...LIKE THE *WINTER.*
"SEEMS THAT WAS IN OUR *BLOOD.*
"AND AFTER SO LONG OUT IN THE *COLD,* I'D FINALLY FOUND A BIT OF *WARMTH.*
"BUT *BEFORE* THAT, WE HAD OUR *DEAL...*

"...NO MORE MURMURNET. NO MORE GIG ECONOMY FOR KILLERS. NO MORE FORBIDDEN FOOTAGE.
"I SILENCED THE ENTIRE DARK METAVERSE TO SHUT DOWN THE CABAL'S BOUNTY.
"MADAME WEB KEEPS HER SERVERS AIRBORNE. IT WASN'T EASY, BUT IT WAS FUN.
"I'VE NEVER PLAYED MY WINTER SONG ON SUCH A GRAND STAGE.
"AND NOW... I'M ON THE FIRST TELETRAIN HOME.
THIS ISN'T OVER, SOLDIER. THE CABAL WILL FIND YOU.
AFTER TODAY, SOMETHING TELLS ME THEY'LL BE MORE INTERESTED IN LOCKING DOWN THEIR CELESTIAL GARDEN.
BUT THEY WON'T BE USING DESPERATE PEOPLE TO DO IT. NOW, IF OSBORN WANTS HIS PRIZE...
...HE'LL HAVE TO TAKE IT WITH HIS BARE HANDS.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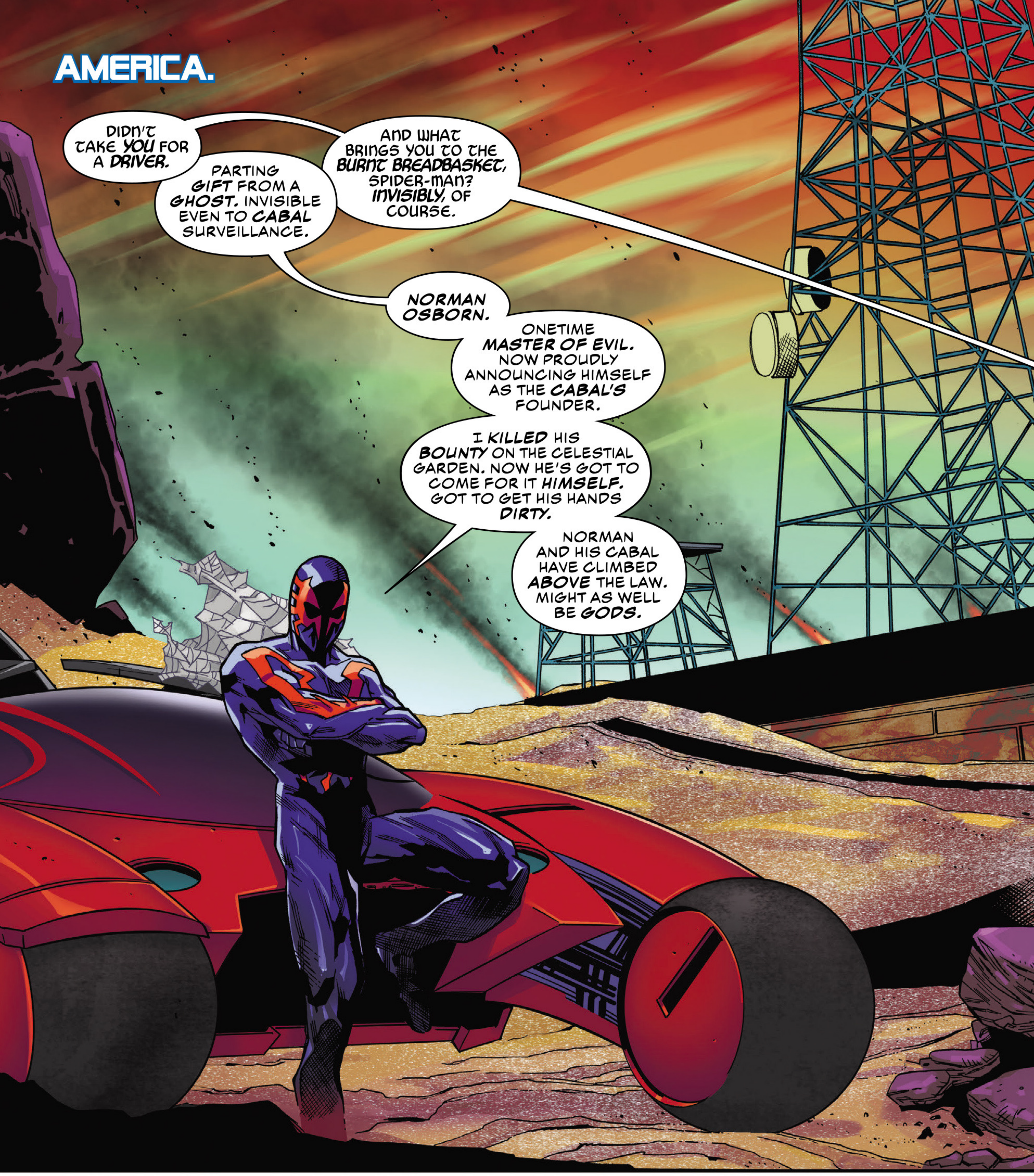
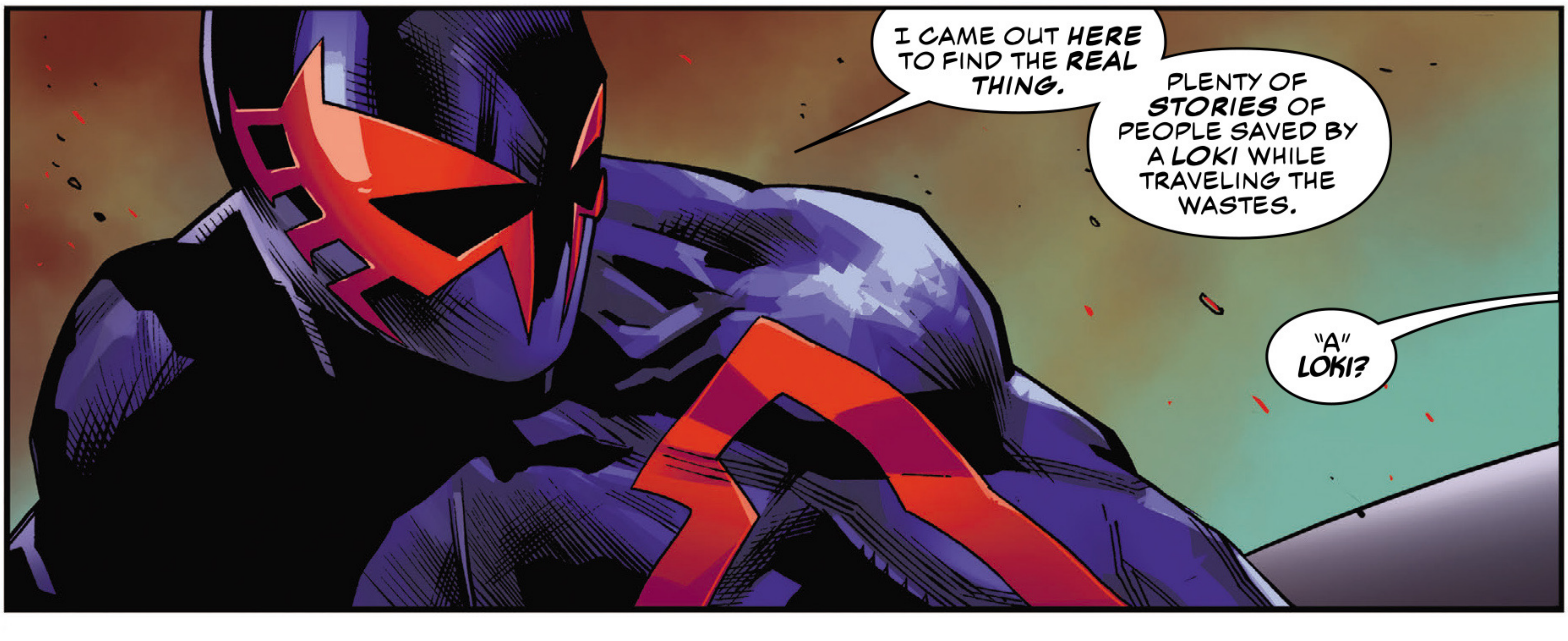

AMERICA.
DIDN'T TAKE YOU FOR A DRIVER.
AND WHAT BRINGS YOU TO THE BURNT BREADBASKET, SPIDER-MAN? INVISIBLY, OF COURSE.
PARTING GIFT FROM A GHOST. INVISIBLE EVEN TO CABAL SURVEILLANCE.
NORMAN OSBORN.
ONETIME MASTER OF EVIL. NOW PROUDLY ANNOUNCING HIMSELF AS THE CABAL'S FOUNDER.
I KILLED HIS BOUNTY ON THE CELESTIAL GARDEN. NOW HE'S GOT TO COME FOR IT HIMSELF. GOT TO GET HIS HANDS DIRTY.
NORMAN AND HIS CABAL HAVE CLIMBED ABOVE THE LAW. MIGHT AS WELL BE GODS.


I CAME OUT HERE TO FIND THE REAL THING.
PLENTY OF STORIES OF PEOPLE SAVED BY A LOKI WHILE TRAVELING THE WASTES.
"A" LOKI?

"HE'S NOT ONE OF THOSE POSERS FROM ALCHEMAX'S AESIR PROGRAM.
"THOSE WERE JUST HUMANS HOPPED UP ON METADRUGS AND MARKETING.
"I SHOULD KNOW.
"WHEN LOKI FIRST WALKED INTO TOWN...
"...THERE WAS NO QUESTION HE WAS THE REAL DEAL.
"AND LET ME TELL YOU. I HATED IT.
TO THINK...
...SOME PEOPLE CAN WALK FORTY DAYS WITH NO SIGN OF AMUSEMENT.
"HE COULD'VE JUST TOLD ME HIS SCHEME UP FRONT.
"BUT HIS HONESTY WAS LONG DEAD...

"...RIGHT BESIDE HIS *HUMILITY.*"
HAVE AT THEE, VULTURE FILTH!
CANNON FODDER DRESSED AS A *SHIELD MAIDEN?*
WINGED CANNIBALS FILLING THE SKIES?
THUD

MY SENSES ARE AFLUTTER!
LOOK AT YOU.
THE ONLY THING WORSE THAN ACTING LIKE A VALKYRIE...
...IS DOING IT BADLY.
SLERK
BEGONE!
UNDERTOWN IS WELL PROTECTED!
KRAK
YOU THINK I DON'T RECOGNIZE YOU, TRICKSTER?
SLASH
I'D BE HURT IF YOU DIDN'T.
BUT TRICKSTER?

IT'S LOKI.
LAST SURVIVOR OF ASGARD.
ICON OF THE WASTES.
GOD OF OUTCASTS...
...WITH THE TRICKSTER BURIED AWAY DEEP. SO YOU HOPE.
THIS WAS THEIR ALPHA, BY THE WAY. THE PLUMAGE WAS A SURE SIGN, BEFORE YOU SET IT ABLAZE.
CHORK

THAT'S JUST ONE. SORRY I DIDN'T STOP TO COUNT THE FEATHERS WHILE GUTTING THE OTHER HUNDRED.
HOW INEFFICIENT. WITH THE ALPHA DEAD, THE FLOCK WILL BE DIRECTIONLESS.
UNDERTOWN SEEMS MORE THAN EQUIPPED TO DEFEND ITSELF.
I BELIEVE IN NOTHING IF NOT SELF-DETERMINATION.
WOK
SUCH A PERFORMANCE THOUGH! WHY PUT ON LIKE A LONG-DEAD VALKYRIE? FOR FUN?
BECAUSE I AM A VALKYRIE.
OF COURSE YOU ARE. AND AS I WATCHED THEM DIE IN COMBAT...
...I SUPPOSE YOU WERE ON SABBATICAL?
WHAT OF YOU, "LAST SURVIVOR"? MORE LIKE DESERTER.
I ABSOLUTELY RAN. VALOR WAS NOT THE WORD OF THE DAY.
BUT WHICH OF US IS PLAYING HERO TO THE VALIANT?

I...I SURVIVED ASGARD'S FALL BY MY OWN BLADE. I PAID THE BLOOD PRICE.
YOU... YOU SHOCKING CATTLE THINK YOU'RE SAFE?
ONE MOMENT.
WITH EVERY MOUTH THE BLACK CARDS STARVE IN THE CITIES, OUR FLOCK GROWS!
THE WASTES ARE OURS TO SCAVENGE!
HURGK!
SEE?
THE BIRD KNOWS WHO HE IS. SO DO THE TOWNSFOLK.
KRACK
KRACK
KRACK
KRACK
KRACK
KRACK
BUT YOU--
--HERE, FRIEND. AND DO USE IT CREATIVELY--
--YOU'RE LYING, WOMAN. ADMIRABLE, IF IT DIDN'T REMIND ME OF MY PEOPLE'S EXTINCTION.
YOU'RE HUMAN, MY MIGHTY VALKYRIE ENTHUSIAST.
SO IF YOU WERE AT ASGARD'S END... IT WASN'T ON MY SIDE.

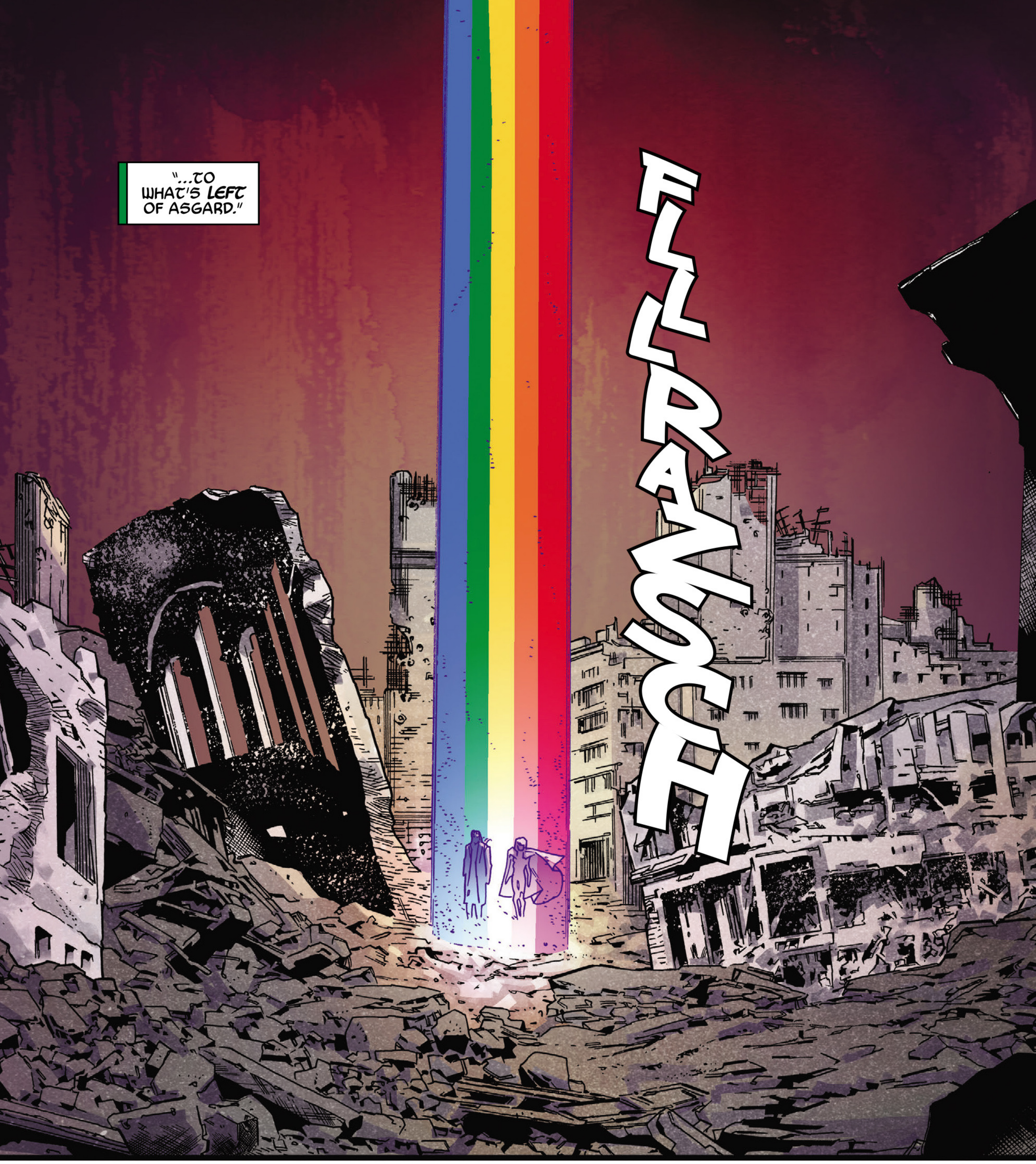
EVEN IF THAT'S TRUE, I...I DON'T ANSWER TO YOU, COWARD!
I'D SAY YOU--
STRANGER... YOU HAVE MY THANKS.
VIOLENCE IS ITS OWN THANKS, URCHIN.
APOLOGIES, WOMAN. NOW, WHERE WERE WE...
AH-- YES!
WHAT THE FOOLISH CALL COWARDICE...
...I CALL STRATEGY. I COULDN'T SAVE ASGARD THEN.
AND DEAD BUT BRAVE, I NEVER WOULD. SO I TOOK MY LEAVE.
BUT NOT BEFORE WATCHING MY MOTHER DIE. WHICH MAKES YOUR CHARADE, BOLD AS IT IS...
...IN EXTREMELY POOR TASTE, EVEN BY MY STANDARDS.
YOU THINK I COULD EVER FORGET?

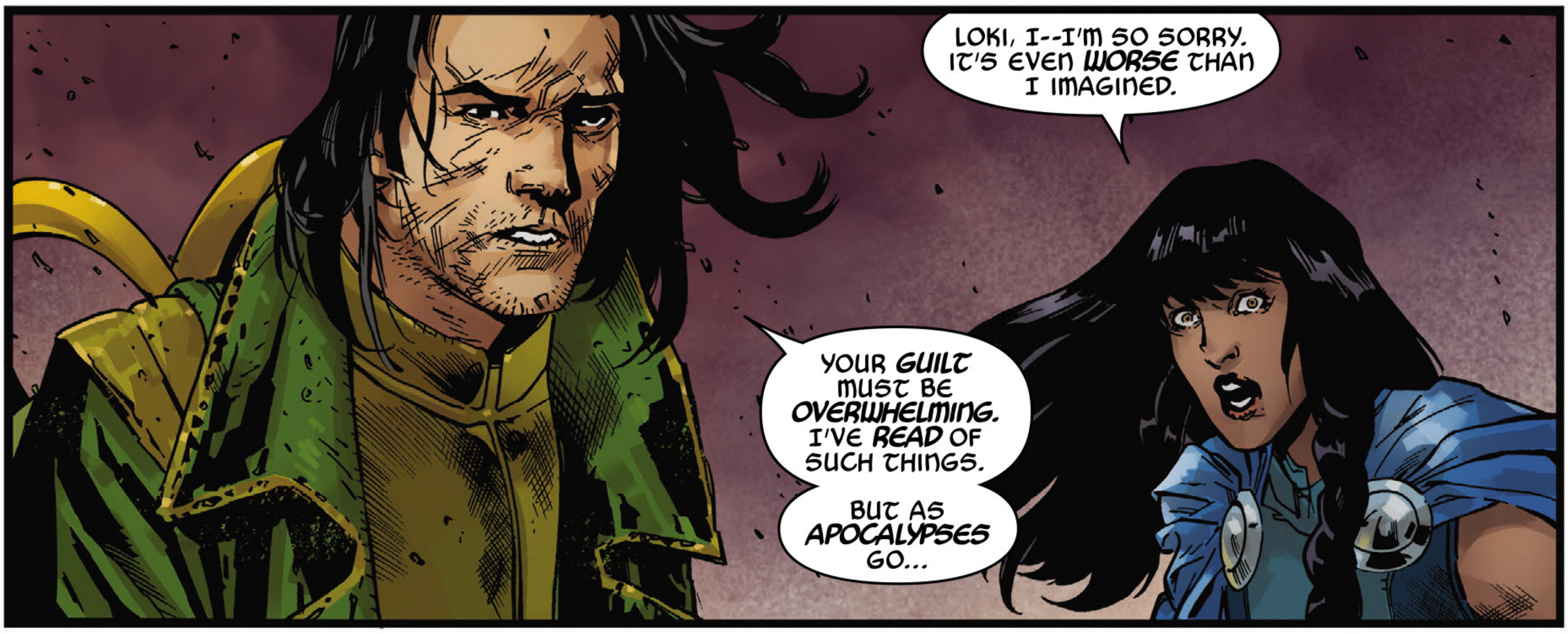
"WHEN THE HUMANS COULDN'T REPLACE US, THEY TRIED TO DESTROY US.
"ALCHEMAX'S FIRST AESIR PROGRAM WAS AN ABJECT FAILURE.
"WHEN THEY COULDN'T MAKE CORPORATE BRANDED DEITIES WORK, THEY WENT BACK TO FORMULA.
"ASGARD'S EXTINCTION WAS THE PROOF OF CONCEPT FOR THEIR SECOND ATTEMPT...
"...CUSTOM AESIR SOLDIERS. RAGNAROK ON DEMAND.
"I CAN STILL SMELL IT, LIKE MULLED BLOOD WINE...
"MYSTERIUM. THE MUTANT WONDER ELEMENT, WOVEN INTO THE SERPENT THAT CONSUMED US...
"...ATOMIZED INTO POISONS THAT CHOKED US.
"FORGED INTO WEAPONS THAT BUTCHERED US. THAT'S RIGHT...
"...I SAW YOU. I DO KNOW YOU'RE A VALKYRIE.
"BUT NOT ONE OF OURS.
"YOU DIDN'T SURVIVE THE FALL OF ASGARD..."

...YOU *ENACTED* IT.
ALCHEMAX, THEY--THE MONEY WAS UNLIKE ANYTHING I'D SEEN. I COULDN'T *AFFORD* TO CARE.
BUT WHEN I GOT THERE, AND I SAW *TRUE* VALKYRIES DYING...
...I *COULDN'T* PULL THE TRIGGER. I RAN, LIKE YOU. AND SINCE THEN...I'VE *TRIED* TO *LIVE UP* TO THE REAL THING.
AND WHAT *LUCK!* YOUR *CHANCE* HAS ARRIVED!
MY WANDERING IS *NOT* AIMLESS. I'VE BEEN FOLLOWING A *BLAST PATTERN.*
FIRST, SCRAPS OF *ARMOR.* THEN, AS I CLOSE IN, MORE *AUSPICIOUS* BITS.
BRAIN MATTER. SPRAYED FROM A *CELESTIAL.*
COSMIC WHALE FALL. ASGARD MAY BE DEAD, AND MY *MAGIC* WITH IT...
...BUT THERE IS *STILL* HOPE IN THE *WONDERS* OF THIS *HOLY FLESH.*
PLEASE... THE VULTURES BURNED OUT OUR HOMES, WE HAVE NOTHING...
SOMETHING *WILL* HAVE TO BE *DONE* ABOUT THAT. BUT FIRST...
...YOU WISH TO *ATONE,* DEAR VALKYRIE? PROVE IT.
FIND ME THE WRECK'S *EPICENTER.* HELP *REVIVE* WHAT YOU KILLED.
...CAN YOU *RIDE,* TRICKSTER?

THE ONTARIO EXPANSE.
WE'RE NEARLY THERE! YOUR FETID STEED'S CUT DAYS FROM OUR JOURNEY.
I SEQUENCE AND RAISE THEM MYSELF. NO HELIX LAWS OUT HERE. NO RESTRICTIONS ON DNA SPLICING.
GENETIC MISCHIEF? THAT CERTAINLY COUNTS IN YOUR FAVOR.
IT'S SCIENCE, NOT MISCHIEF.
ANY SUFFICIENTLY MISUNDERSTOOD MISCHIEF IS INDISTINGUISHABLE FROM SCIENCE.
BUT CHEER UP, HORSE GIRL...

"...OUR GARDEN APPROACHES."
WHAT DO YOU EXPECT US TO FIND HERE?
ROT GIVES WAY TO LIFE. CELESTIAL ROT GIVES WAY TO LIFE EXPONENTIAL.
HUMANS WILL STRIP THIS PARADISE DRY. BUT BEFORE THAT...
"...I WANT MY PICK OF THE CORPSE."
FOOTPRINTS. WE'RE NOT THE FIRST HERE.
NOR WILL WE BE THE LAST. BUT WE HAVE WHAT WE NEED.
WATER?
CELLULAR FLUID. UNSPECIALIZED CELLS. THE STUFF OF LIFE TO HEAL ASGARD.
IF WE CAN GET THERE. THE CABAL CONTROLS DIMENSIONAL TRANSIT. ALCHEMAX SHATTERED THE BIFROST.
NOT ALL OF IT. I POCKETED THE SHARDS THAT ONCE DELIVERED ME TO MIDGARD'S SAFE AND PUNGENT SHORE. FORCE OF HABIT.
THIS MOTTLED MALLET WILL FERRY US...
FLRASH


"...TO WHAT'S LEFT OF ASGARD."
FLLLRAZSCH


LOKI, I--I'M SO SORRY. IT'S EVEN WORSE THAN I IMAGINED.
YOUR GUILT MUST BE OVERWHELMING. I'VE READ OF SUCH THINGS.
BUT AS APOCALYPSES GO...

"...THE BOOK'S NOT CLOSED ON THIS ONE."
SEE HERE? I MAY HAVE LOST MY INNOCENCE IN THE BACK OF THAT SKIFF.
SKIP THE ONE-MAN SHOW. LOOK AT THIS PLACE. THE PAIN WE CAUSED...
...HOW COULD ANYTHING POSSIBLY BE REBORN FROM SUCH DEATH?
NOT WITH AN ATTITUDE LIKE THAT.
THE SCENT OF MYSTERIUM IS AS STRONG AS EVER. STRONGER, EVEN.
THE FILTH YOUR SERPENT BELCHED TO POISON THIS LAND. POISONED...BEYOND REPAIR.
IT...SEEMS I WAS WRONG. I BET THAT SOME TRACE OF LIFE MIGHT REMAIN...
...BUT YOUR KIND FOULED EVEN MY PEOPLE'S DUST... THERE IS NOTHING LEFT TO REVIVE.
ONLY LOKI. KING...OF ASHES.
RRRRUMBLE
LOKI? THE STREETS! THEY'RE--WE'RE NOT ALONE!

THE BEAST YET FESTERS!
THAT EXPLAINS THE MYSTERIUM IN THE AIR.
THE SERPENT IS QUADRILLION-DOLLAR MYSTECH.
WHY WOULD ALCHEMAX JUST LEAVE IT TO GUARD A TOMB?
BECAUSE WITHOUT ME...

CHOOM
...THE TOMB'S NOT COMPLETE.
AND IT NEVER WILL BE. GET BEHIND ME, LOKI! THIS TIME...
...I'M NOT SHOCKING RUNNING!
BY ALL MEANS! DO KEEP THE CREATURE DISTRACTED.
GO, LOKI! SUMMON THE BIFROST!
THE MYSTERIUM WILL KILL YOU!
NO.
WE HAVE BOTH RUN ENOUGH.
ASGARD IS GONE! YOUR MAGIC IS DEAD!
YOU THINK YOU CAN SAVE US WITH A SMILE AND A SWORD?
ASGARD IS LOST. AND MY SWORD IS FOR NAUGHT...BUT MY MAGIC DEAD?
SHOULDN'T IT BE OBVIOUS?

FWOOOSH!
I LIED.
RRRROOOAAARR!

LOKI!
THOOM
ALL OF ALCHEMAX'S WEAPONS HAVE BEEN DEFUSED... BY MY LIFE. IT SEEMS...
...YOU ARE HERE FOR MY ONE-MAN SHOW, AFTER ALL.
CACHING MY MAGIC... FOR A SACRIFICE SPELL. SOMEWHERE...
...MY BROTHER LAUGHS.
WHY DIE FOR NOTHING? ASGARD CAN'T BE SAVED.
BUT IT COULD BE PEOPLED ANEW... BY MY BLOOD AND YOUR HAND.
WHAT THE HELL DOES THAT MEAN?
IT MEANS YOU WERE AN EASY MARK FROM THE START.
MY TRUE PEOPLE WERE NEVER ASGARDIANS... BUT THE OUTCASTS.
MORTALS LOVE TO TURN THEIR BACK ON THOSE THEY DEEM UNWORTHY.
THOSE LIKE WE LEFT IN UNDERTOWN DESERVE A TIPPING OF THE SCALES...
...A NEW VALHALLA WHERE THEY HOLD THE POWER.
AND WHO BETTER TO LEAD THEM THERE THAN A VALKYRIE?

"ONCE, I CAME TO ASGARD IN THE NAME OF DESTRUCTION...
"...AND RAN FROM IT IN SHAME.
"BUT THERE, ON ITS RUINED STREETS, LOKI DIED IN MY ARMS...
"...AND TRUSTED ASGARD'S FUTURE TO ME.
"I OWED HIM MY HOPE. MY SHOT AT REDEMPTION.
"AND KNOWING HIM...
"...THAT WAS HIS TRICK ALL ALONG.

"LOKI NEVER WANTED THE OLD ASGARD BACK.
"HIS LAST SPELL LEFT BEHIND CLEAN STREETS...
"...FOR A NEW CITY OF OUTCASTS.
"AN ASGARD FOR HIS KIND, THE FORSAKEN AND MISJUDGED.
"ALL HE WAS WAITING FOR WAS SOMEONE TO BUILD IT.
"BLENDED WITH CELESTIAL CELLS, LOKI'S BLOOD BECAME GODHOOD IN A JAR.
"A REPRIEVE FROM MORTAL RIGORS FOR THOSE WHO SUFFER THEM THE MOST.
"WITH ME, LIKE THE VALKYRIES I HONOR...
"...DELIVERING THE NEEDY FROM THEIR DAILY BATTLEFIELD.
"ON EARTH, THEY WERE UNTOUCHABLE...
"...LEFT TO SCRAPE BY TO SURVIVE.
"BUT THROUGH HIM, THEY CAN ASCEND.

"THROUGH *HIM*, HIS HOME *IS* REBORN AS *ONLY IT* COULD BE...
"...AS *ONLY HE* WOULD ALLOW IT TO BE...
"...IN *HIS* IMAGE.
"AND IN *LOKI'S* ASGARD, ALL *OUTCASTS* ARE *WELCOME.*
"THESE ARE THE *NEW ASGARDIANS.* DRAWN NOT FROM ABOVE, BUT *BELOW.*
"FOR *THEM*, IT'S A *NEW DAY.* BUT FOR YOU...

...IT'S BAD NEWS, SPIDER-MAN.
YOU CAME ALL THE WAY OUT HERE FOR A GOD'S EAR.
AND LOKI WAS THE GREATEST STRATEGIST TO WALK THIS OR ANY WORLD...
...BUT HE'S ALSO VERY DEAD.
DEAD... WITH A NEW GENERATION OF HOMEGROWN GODS TO SURVIVE HIM?
LISTEN TO YOURSELF, VALKYRIE. I CAME TO RECRUIT A SINGLE GOD.
YOU'RE TELLING ME YOU'VE GOT AN ARMY OF THEM.
I...DO. BUT THESE PEOPLE, THEY'VE SUFFERED GENERATIONS OF ABUSE.
THE CABAL IS JUST THE TYPE OF MORTAL HORROR I'VE DELIVERED THEM FROM.
THE NEW ASGARDIANS DESERVE PEACE. I WON'T ASK THEM TO FIGHT FOR YOU.
BUT WHEN THE TIME COMES...I WILL BE THERE.
UNTIL THEN, A BIT OF ADVICE FROM SOMEONE WHO'S BEEN THERE. TO TAKE DOWN GODS...
...THE FIRST THING YOU DO IS MAKE THEM MORTAL.

3

NUEVA YORK.
SOMETHING WRONG, MIGUEL?
JUST ANOTHER DEAD GOD, LYLA. OSBORN AND HIS CABAL MIGHT NOT HAVE KILLED LOKI... BUT THEY CAN'T BE TOO ANGRY ABOUT IT.
LESS COMPETITION.
EASIER TO STEAL GODHOOD FOR HIMSELF.
THE VALKYRIE DID SAY TO MAKE OSBORN--VZZT--MORT--VZZT--
VZZT--AL--ZZT--
YOU'LL FORGIVE ME FOR QUIETING YOUR FAMILIAR.
MIGUEL O'HARA. SPIDER-MAN. IT HAS BEEN A YEAR...

"...SINCE THE *DEATH* OF THE *AVENGERS.*
"A YEAR SINCE WE WERE *UNDER SIEGE.* AND ALL ANYONE *COULD* DO WAS WATCH...
"...THANKS TO THE *MASTERS OF EVIL* AND THEIR *BLACK CARDS.*
"I STILL REMEMBER YOUNG *CABLE'S* FACE...
"...AS OUR *TEMPORAL LIAISON* FLED FOR HIS LIFE.
BLIP

"ZEMO. THE ARISTOCRAT.
"ENCHANTRESS. THE MANIPULATOR.
"MELTER. THE DESTROYER.
"BLACK KNIGHT. THE STRATEGIST.
"THE RADIOACTIVE MAN. THE SPOILER...
"...AND THE PATRIOT. THE STRONGMAN.
"THEY WANTED PEOPLE TO SEE. TO UNDERSTAND.
"THEY WERE BREAKING THE STALLION OF THE WORLD.
"BECAUSE THEY COULD.
"BECAUSE THEIR BLACK CARDS PUT THEM ABOVE THE LAW.
"THE AVENGERS WEREN'T DISASSEMBLED.
"WE WERE DISEMBOWELED.

"THEY CARVED UP HOPE LIKE A SACRED DEER.
"THE MESSAGE WAS CLEAR.
"HUMANITY MIGHT'VE SURVIVED...
"...BUT IT HAD NEW MASTERS.
"VICTORIOUS, THEY SET OUT TO PILLAGE THE STARS. LEFT US TO DIE.
"BUT I HAVE DIED BEFORE.
"AND AS LONG AS VENGEANCE CALLS...

"...THE **MOON KNIGHT** WILL LIVE TO ANSWER IT.
"I RETIRED TO MY **CRESCENT CRYPT**--TO HEAL IN THE HEART OF THE MOON.
"TO **WATCH** FROM ABOVE. TO PLAN.
"TO PREPARE FOR A DAY FEARED LIKE ***NO OTHER.***
TLING DING DING DING
"AND TODAY...
"...WAS *THAT DAY."*
TLING DING DING DING
THE ***EARTHSHINE BELLS...***
SOMETHING'S ***WOKEN*** THE ***MOONOCLE.***

ONTARIO. A STELLAR CRASH. IT...IT'S INCREDIBLE.
THIS FOOTAGE IS MINUTES OLD. AND YET, ALREADY...
...A WONDER TROVE. METALS. MEDICINES. MYTHS... SPRUNG FROM A COSMIC CORPSE.
A GOD THAT STAYS DEAD? WHAT A COWARD.
WAIT. INCOMING DATA PACKAGE...
TLING DING DING DING
...NO.
PERIMETER BREACH OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM.
LONG-RANGE SCANS DETECT...
...THE RADIOACTIVE MAN.
"IT WAS THEM.
"OUR SUPPOSED MASTERS. THEY'RE COMING...

"...NO DOUBT TO ROB EARTH OF ITS NEWFOUND RICHES."
ENCHANTRESS! WE AWAIT YOU ON THE BRIDGE.
WHAT'S LEFT TO DISCUSS, ZEMO?
WHO BUT US OR OSBORN COULD PULL A DEAD CELESTIAL FROM THE SKY?
DOOM IS GONE. AND WE'VE BEEN KEEPING BUSY...
...THOSE OF US LEFT.
NO TEARS FOR THE BLACK KNIGHT. PRIDE GREW IN HIM LIKE A TUMOR...
HE WAS FATED FOR MY BLADE THE SECOND HE REFUSED TO FOLLOW.
RADIOACTIVE MAN...SCANNING REPORT.
WHAT EARTHLY TREASURES HAS OSBORN GROWN US?
ADAMANTIUM. PANACEA. URU. AND MORE...ALL DEEP IN THIS GARDEN'S SOIL.
THE GREATEST SCORE SINCE WE SIPHONED THE CANCERVERSE.
DOES NORMAN REALLY THINK HE COULD CUT US OUT?
OSBORN HAD TO KNOW WE'D COME... HE'S WELL BEHIND ON HIS DUES.

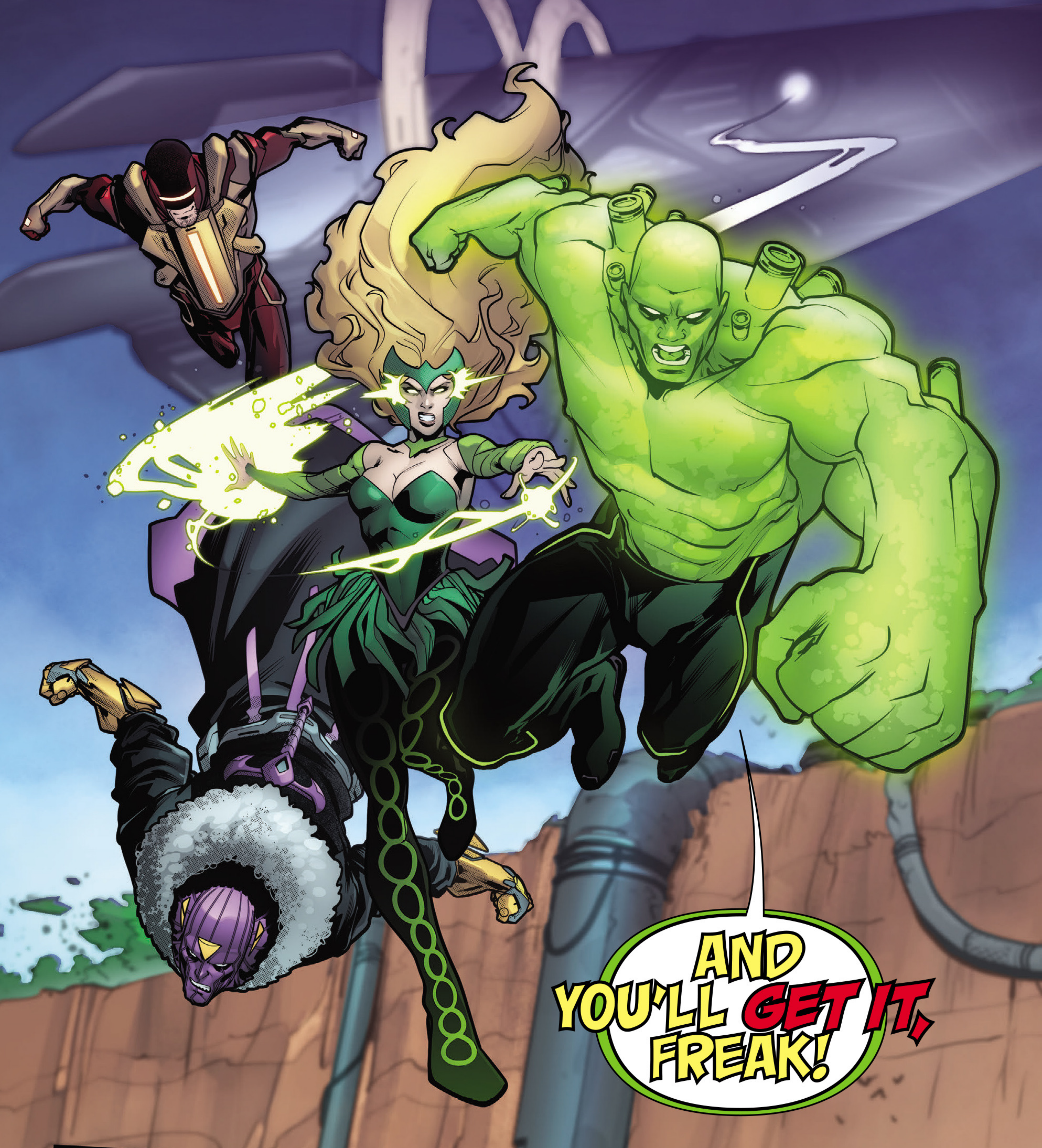
"THE MASTERS WEREN'T THE ONLY ONES WATCHING EARTH.
CHIME
SIZZZZLE--
KRAK
"FROM THE MOMENT I ROSE, I'D SEARCHED.
"STOKED THE FIRES. SOUGHT OUT THE SPITEFUL LIVING.
FZZZA--
KRAK KRAK KRAK
"THOSE WITH FRIENDS, FAMILY, LOVERS AND HEROES...
"...WAITING TO BE AVENGED.
TLING DING DING DING
CRESCENT CRYPT? ENGAGE THE SUMMONING ARRAY.
"THOSE..."

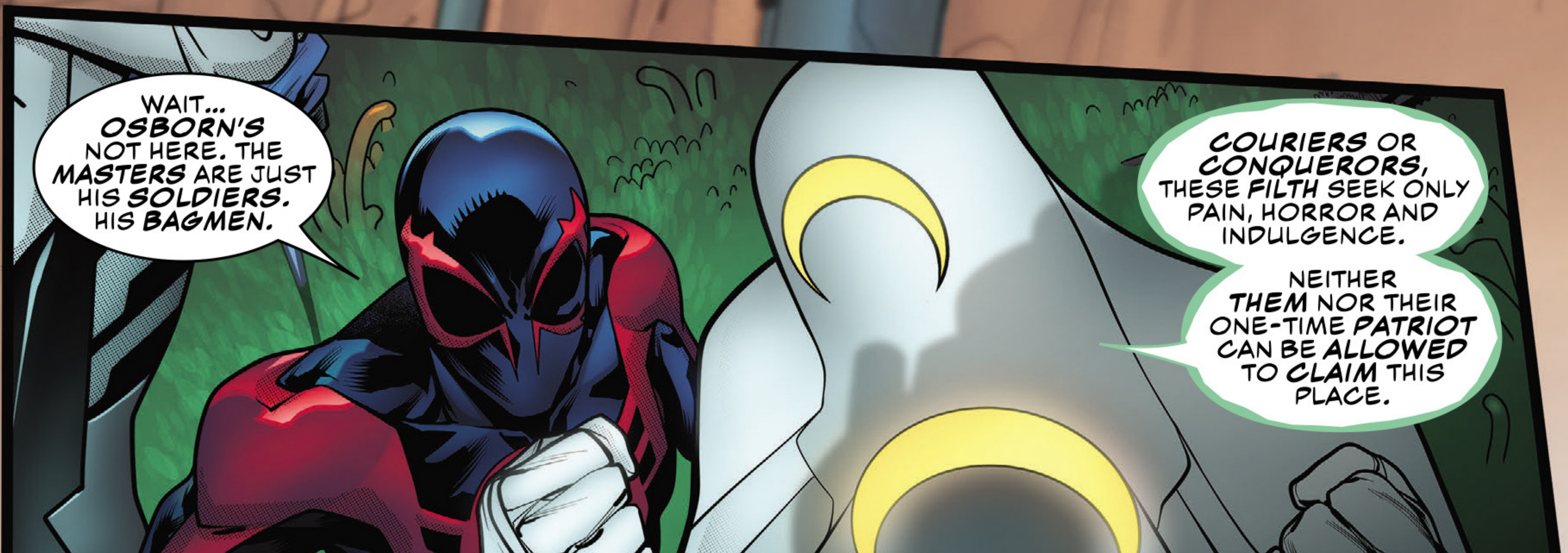
...LIKE YOU, SPIDER-MAN.
OF COURSE. I PUSHED OSBORN. NOW HE'S CALLED IN HIS CREW.
OSBORN?
SOME THINGS SLIP EVEN YOUR GAZE, MOON KNIGHT. OSBORN WAS THE PATRIOT...
...THE ONE MASTER TO STAY BEHIND TO START HIS CABAL OF KLEPTOCRATS.
HE ENGINEERED THE CRASH TO CREATE THE GARDEN. PUT A BOUNTY ON ITS RICHES.
BUT I KILLED THAT. THE MASTERS RETURNING CAN'T BE A COINCIDENCE.
YOU BELIEVE HE'S CALLED THEM HERE?
OSBORN SEEDED A PARADISE. AND NOW THAT HE'S GOT TO COME COLLECT ITS SPOILS IN PERSON...
...HE DOESN'T WANT TO DO IT ALONE.
I NEED NUMBERS TO RUIN HIS DAY. ASGARD TURNED ME DOWN. BUT NOW...
...HERE YOU ARE TALKING VENGEANCE.
INDEED, SPIDER-MAN. ONE COULD CALL IT MY LOVE LANGUAGE.
IF YOU'D STAND AGAINST OSBORN AND THE MASTERS OF EVIL...

"...YOU WON'T STAND ALONE."
JOHN EISENHART. THE HULK.
THE MASTERS MADE YOU INTO A DOOMSDAY DEVICE.
ROWENA STERN. CAPTAIN MARVEL.
THE MASTERS CUT DOWN YOUR FATHERS.
ZHE LI. AERO.
THE MASTERS POISONED YOUR STUDENTS.
MACKENZIE SALGADO. WAVE.
THE MASTERS STARVED YOUR CITY.
ROBERTA MENDEZ. CAPTAIN AMERICA.
THE MASTERS STOLE YOUR FREE WILL.
T'SHAMBA. BLACK PANTHER.
THE MASTERS SOILED YOUR ANCESTRAL HOME.
THE TIME HAS COME TO ENLIGHTEN EARTH'S WOULD-BE TYRANTS.
WHEN YOU KILL THE OLD AVENGERS...

...YOU CREATE *NEW AVENGERS.*
EACH OF US HAS BEEN WOUNDED BY THE MASTERS--EACH FELT *LOSS* AT THEIR HANDS.
AND WHEN THEY MAKE *LANDFALL,* THAT *LOSS* WILL BE *REPAID.*
WITH *INTEREST.*
THEY BENT SPACE TO *CREATE* THIS GARDEN. THEY *MADE* IT.
BUT WE DON'T *HAVE* TO *LET THEM TAKE IT.*

"LET"? PLEASE.
YOU ONLY SURVIVED OUR FIRST SIEGE BY BEING BENEATH OUR NOTICE.
THIS GARDEN AND ALL ITS WEALTH BELONG TO THE MASTERS BY RIGHT.
STEP ASIDE. OR DIE...AS YOUR KIND DO.
VENGEANCE CANNOT BE KILLED, ZEMO. WOUND IT...
...AND YOU ONLY BRING IT STRENGTH.
KHONSHU'S PUPPET? I SEEM TO RECALL SPILLING YOUR SKULL.
SO WHAT? IF MOON KNIGHT LIVES, SHE MELTS.
YOU WON'T GET THE CHANCE, MELTER! I MAKE MY OWN ACTIVATION CODES NOW.
YOU'D ONLY WASTE THIS GARDEN LIKE YOU DID MY STUDENTS' LIVES. YOU TAKE ALL...
...BUT KNOW NOTHING OF VALUE.
AERO SAID IT NICELY. I'LL SAY IT PLAINLY. WE'RE LOOKING FOR BLOOD.


AND YOU'LL GET IT, FREAK!


WAIT... OSBORN'S NOT HERE. THE MASTERS ARE JUST HIS SOLDIERS. HIS BAGMEN.
COURIERS OR CONQUERORS, THESE FILTH SEEK ONLY PAIN, HORROR AND INDULGENCE.
NEITHER THEM NOR THEIR ONE-TIME PATRIOT CAN BE ALLOWED TO CLAIM THIS PLACE.

CHOOM
WE'RE NOBODY'S COURIERS, KHONSHU. OSBORN'S IS A YOUNG, BLUNT MIND.
THE FOOL DOESN'T EVEN COMPREHEND WHAT HE'S MADE.
IT IS A FUNGAL BLOOM, ITS EVERY SPORE CELESTIAL. ITS EVERY ATOM A MIRACLE.
HEALING WATERS. OMNIPRESENT GEMS. MEGAMETALS. THE MORE TO OWN, THE MORE TO RANSOM.
THEY WHO OVERSEE THIS PLACE OVERSEE THE FUTURE OF ALL SENTIENT LIFE.
POOR NORMAN SHOULD'VE KNOWN WE'D BEAT HIM TO IT.
SURE. YOU CROSSED A GALAXY. BUT WE'RE GOING TO MAKE YOU WORK FOR THE FINISH LINE.
HOPED YOU WOULD, MISS AMERICA...

...I'VE MISSED KILLING AVENGERS!

I SAW YOU DIE, PUPPET! THIS TIME, I'LL CARVE OUT YOUR HEART!
I'LL KEEP STANDING BACK UP. WHAT ABOUT YOU?
CLANG
ELEMENTALS! HOW QUAINT...
...TO DEVOTE YOURSELVES TO SOMETHING SO BASIC.
FWOOOOSH
YOU THINK I DON'T REMEMBER MY FATHERS' SCREAMS?
THEN YOU SHOULD HAVE NO PROBLEM JOINING THEIR CHORUS, WOMAN.
NYOOAARGH!
TELL YOU WHAT, BIG GUY. ONCE I'VE COOKED YOU TO SOUP...
...YOU'LL GET THE NICEST JAR ON MY MANTLE.

SHRETT SHRETT SHRETT
YOU MOCK NATURE, BUT IT MAKES PUPILS OF US ALL.
EVEN YOU, ENCHANTRESS.
DUSTY PEASANT!
SHLERK
YOU MIGHT'VE POISONED OUR LANDS, MONSTER... BUT WAKANDA LIVES!
SHUCK
SHLERK
CRAZED PAGAN!
CAN'T CONTROL ME ANYMORE, WITCH...
I'M FREE, UPGRADED AND ANGRY.
CUTE, MELTER. BUT PAIN DON'T HURT. TAKES MORE THAN A LIGHT MAIMING...
WHAM

"...TO PUT DOWN A HULK."
YOU LEFT HIM BEHIND, ZEMO!
HE'S ONE OF YOU! SO WHERE IS HE?
WHERE'S NORMAN OSBORN?!
DON'T TOUCH ME, YOU FILTHY MUTATE!
STO-- JUST STOP! IT'S--
--IT'S NOT A MASK! AAAIIIEEE!
RIIIIIP
NOTHING SCREAMS LIKE OLD MONEY... SO MUCH FOR THE MASTERS.
I WAS NEVER REALLY ONE OF YOU. HOW COULD I BE? I WORKED FOR MY SPOT. NOW...
...ALL I DO IS WIND YOU UP. YOU HAD TO MAKE YOUR PLAY. YOU COULDN'T RESIST. AND ME?
I'LL JUST SMILE...

"...AS THE NEW AVENGERS TAKE YOU OFF THE BOARD."
I-- I DIDN'T KNOW!
GUUUUUUUUUHGH...
YOU OWE ME THIS WATER! ME AND ALL OF SUPER MALAY!
ACK-- AGHCK!
A HAND IS A SMALL PRICE TO BRING YOU DOWN, MELTER.
HURGK!
WE'VE LONG AGO CURED PAIN ON WAKANDA.
NO NEED TO SHARE THAT CURE WITH THE MASTERS, YOUR HIGHNESS.
ALWAYS FIGURED YOU FOR A GAMMA GHOST...
CHOK
...BUT THAT'S THE POPPING SOUND OF REAL.

NO... YOU'RE DEAD...ALL OF YOU WERE DEAD...
WE WERE...UNTIL YOU.
RRRRIP
YOU GAVE US SOMETHING TO AVENGE.
YOU KILLED MY HOST. YOU BROUGHT ME TO THE SURFACE. THANKS TO YOU...
...MOON KNIGHT IS KHONSHU. VENGEANCE ITSELF. THANKS TO YOU...
...EARTH WILL ALWAYS HAVE AVENGERS.
BUT YOU FOUR...

"...YOU'LL NEVER SEE EARTH AGAIN."
PLANET WAKANDA.
"FROM ROT, MY FRIENDS... COMES NEW LIFE.
"THE GALAXY IS WOUNDED. THE HEALING STARTS HERE.
"FOR EARTH, WAKANDA AND THE STARS BEYOND.
"NO CRY WILL GO IGNORED. WHERE ONCE THE MASTERS SPREAD PAIN..."
...THE AVENGERS WILL SEED HOPE.
NIGHT IS PASSING AT LAST. THIS IS A MOMENT OF RENEWAL. OF FAITH REWARDED.
A TIME...

"...OF HEROES REBORN."
THE MASTERS MIGHT BE ON TRIAL, BUT OSBORN'S LAUGHING SOMEWHERE.
AND AS I VOWED, WE WILL FINISH THE JOB. THE AVENGERS WILL HUNT THE FORMER PATRIOT.
I'M NOT READY TO COME HARD AND LOUD, KHONSHU... NOT YET.
OSBORN WANTED THIS. THE MASTERS WERE TRYING TO UNDERCUT HIM. NOW THEY'RE POWERLESS.
HE WOUND US UP. PLAYED US. OSBORN'S KNOCKING OFF HIS COMPETITION.
WHEN THE TIME'S RIGHT, I'LL SIGNAL WITH YOUR BEACON.
AND UNTIL THEN?
THANKS TO THEIR BLACK CARDS, THE MASTERS COULD ONLY FACE JUSTICE OFF-WORLD.
THAT'S OSBORN'S TRUE POWER, LIKE THE VALKYRIE SAID. SO I'M BURNING HIS MONEY.
MAKING HIM MORTAL. AND TO DO THAT, I NEED HELP. THE KIND I CAN ONLY FIND...
...IN LATVERIA.

4

NUEVA YORK.
THE SUB-SEWERS, MIGUEL?
HELL OF A WAY TO WELCOME YOURSELF BACK TO EARTH.
GOT TO STAY GROUNDED, LYLA. BUT GO SILENT...
...WE'RE NOT ALONE.
GOSSIP SPREADS FASTER THAN LIGHT...
...WHAT DO YOU NEED, SPIDER-MAN?
A TECHNOPATH. INHERITED LATVERIA FROM DOOM AFTER HE DISAPPEARED...AND RETURNED IT TO ITS PEOPLE.
SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T WANT WEALTH. WHO CAN BURN THE CABAL'S BLACK CARDS AND NOT BE TEMPTED TO USE THEM.
HE'S WAY OFF THE GRID, BUT THAT'S WHERE YOU LIVE, RIGHT? THE LAST OF THE OLD SCHOOL... THE BLACK WIDOW.
NO RECORDS. NO TECH. WORD OF MOUTH. THOSE I HELP JOIN MY WEB.
IF THAT WORKS FOR YOU...

"...THERE'S **NO ONE** I CAN'T **FIND.**"
DO THEY EVEN **SELL** KEVLAR ROPE ANYMORE?
A **GRAPPLE LINE** IS ALL WE USED TO **NEED.**
"WE"? YOU MOVE PRETTY WELL FOR A SUPER-CENTENARIAN.
WE'RE AFTER **YOUR** MYSTERIES. NOT MINE.
HE'S A **MUTANT.** BEEN ON THE **RUN** FOR MONTHS... **NOSTROMO.**
KID'S NAME'S **NOSTROMO.**

"ON THE RUN? THAT IS GOOD.
"THE SWEAT. THE EYES. PEOPLE NOTICE A RUNNER.
"THEY CATCH GLIMPSES. CONFRONT THEM...
"...AND THEY TALK.
"IT'S THE HEAVY FEET. RUNNERS ALWAYS SHAKE THE WEB.
"MY WEB. AND THEN...
"...THE SPIDERS FOLLOW."
WAIT, NOSTROMO. WE'RE HERE TO HELP--
HOW'D YOU FIND ME?!
I BLOCKED THE CAMERAS!
YOU CANNOT BLOCK GOSSIP.
YOU LED HIM HERE! AND HE NEVER MISSES!
DON'T YOU GET IT?

NOTHING STOPS HAWKEYE!
I CAN STOP A LOT MORE THAN ONE ORBITING HERMIT.
BUT NOT WITHOUT YOU.
...WHY HELP ME?
LATVERIA. YOU INHERITED A NATION AND GAVE IT BACK...
...YOU'RE NOT TEMPTED BY POWER. OR INTIMIDATED BY IT.
YOU FACED DOWN DOOM. WHY RUN FROM HAWKEYE?
I...HEAR DATA. LIKE VOICES ECHOING ON THE WIND.

SO WHEN DOOM GAVE ME LATVERIA, HIS SECRETS CAME WITH IT.
HIS SECRET WARS. CRISES HE AVERTED WITHOUT US EVER KNOWING...
LIKE THE HELLROCK...THE OLD MUTROID PRISON.
DOOM FLOODED IT WITH ADAMANTIUM. SHOT IT INTO SPACE. THERE WERE THREE OBJECTIVES.
STOP THE MUTROIDS. GET A BIOHAZARD OFF-WORLD. AND ASSASSINATE A CELESTIAL...JOVION THE ENACTOR.
EVERY TIME THOSE SPACE GODS TOUCH DOWN ON EARTH, IT'S DEATH. DOOM WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE WHOLE PLANET...SO HE SHOT JOVION DEAD.
AND A BULLET LIKE THE HELLROCK COULD ONLY BE AIMED BY HAWKEYE.
THE CABAL SALVAGED JOVION'S CORPSE FROM SPACE. BUT HAWKEYE KNOWS DOOM FIRED THE KILLSHOT, NOT THEM...AND YOU KEEP WHAT YOU KILL.
IF IT GOT OUT DOOM WAS THE KILLER, IT COULD WEAKEN THE CABAL'S CLAIM TO THE BODY. ONLY YOU AND HAWKEYE KNOW. AND ONLY YOU KNOW ABOUT HAWKEYE. IF YOU'RE DEAD...
...HE'S PROTECTED. AND THE CABAL'S CLAIM TO ALL THE GARDEN'S SUPERMETALS, GENETIC TECH, AND HYPERFUELS IS UNCHALLENGED.
HAWKEYE'S CLOSING IN, AND THE CABAL'S SO POWERFUL... THEY'RE PRACTICALLY GODS.
ONLY UNTIL WE MAKE THEM MORTAL. BUT FIRST, WE SOLVE YOUR ARCHER PROBLEM.
YOU ARE IN MY WEB NOW, NOSTROMO.
SPIDER-MAN WILL KEEP YOU ALIVE...

"...WHILE I SEE TO hawkeye."
THE HAWK'S NEST. LOW ORBIT.
NEST? STATUS UPDATE: SHOT 111995.
TARGET: GABRIEL HESS. NOSTROMO.
MOVEMENT ERRATIC. ACCELERATED BEYOND PERSONAL CAPACITY.
RECALIBRATING SMART SIGHTS.
SPEED LIKE THAT...
YOU FIND YOURSELF A FRIEND DOWN THERE, MUTIE?

"SPIDER-MAN... NEVER HAD THE PLEASURE."
NEST? GIVE ME MANUAL CONTROL. FEELING NOSTALGIC.
CONFIRMED.
"YOU'RE FAST, BUT I KNOW HOW TO LEAD A SHOT.
"NEST. LOCK TARGETING PATH. LOAD A GRAVITY LANCE..."
...AND START THE COUNT--
ALERT. PHOTONIC INCURSION.
--DOWN?
"TRADE TAG: LIVING LASER."
LIGHT TRANSPORT? WHO THE SHOCK EVEN KNOWS I'M UP HERE?
WHO ELSE, HAWKEYE?

THE BLACK WIDOW CAN FIND ANYONE.
NO WAY... I COVERED MY TRACKS. THEY'RE ALL DEAD--I COULD NAME THE SHOTS!
YOU KILLED YOUR LAUNCH TECHS. I CAUGHT THE SANITATION CREW.
LIKE I CAUGHT ART PARKS IV. C.E.O. OF LIVING LASER.
YOU'D BE SURPRISED HOW FAR MY WEB STRETCHES.
LIVING LASER INC.
HOW ABOUT I SHOW YOU WHERE IT ENDS?
ARROW.

FWIT
KHET
THRAT
POP
HEARD YOU NEVER MISS.
HEARD YOU DIDN'T USE TECH.
YOU ARE WORTH THE EXCEPTION.
SPIDER-MAN CAN'T PROTECT THE KID FOREVER.
THE SMART SIGHTS'LL CATCH THEM SOON ENOUGH.
THEN... I SHOOT MY REAL SHOT.
SMART SIGHTS. LASER TRANSPORT. DEATH SATELLITES. I SO MISS THE DAYS...

...WHEN WE SOLVED PROBLEMS WITH OUR HANDS.
SHRRIP
DISTANCE TO TARGET: TEN.

DISTANCE TO TARGET: NINE.
HE'S ALWAYS WATCHING, SPIDER-MAN! HOW LONG CAN WE DO THIS?
DISTANCE TO TARGET: EIGHT.
FWIT
ARROW.
A DART, AT BEST.
DISTANCE TO TARGET: SEVEN.
LONG ENOUGH. LET THE WIDOW WORK.
DISTANCE TO TARGET: SIX.
THIS IS NO SHOCKING DART!
FRAK
YOU RUN YOUR MOUTH. YOU ARE PLAYING...

...BUT THIS IS NO GAME.
WHAM
DISTANCE TO TARGET: FIVE.
WHY...? WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT SOME MUTIE?
ARROW.
FWIT
THE BOY FELL INTO MY WEB, AS MANY DO. THIS IS THE JOB.
BUT ONCE I HEARD YOUR NAME...
...MY INVESTMENT BECAME PERSONAL.
FWIT
ARROW.
DISTANCE TO TARGET: FOUR.
WHAT, YOU A FAN?

ANYTHING BUT.
HEY. ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, NOSTROMO...
DISTANCE TO TARGET: THREE.
...WE WON'T HAVE TO RUN MUCH LONGER.
TRYING TO **DISTRACT** ME?
ARROW.
FWIT
DISTANCE TO TARGET: TWO.
GODJAM CAPE GAMES!
THINK I CAN'T **REACH** THE--
TWANG
DISTANCE TO TARGET: ONE.
--TRIGGER?!
FIRE
DEET

STATUS UPDATE: SHOT 111995...
KA-BOOM!
...MISS.
NO... SHOCKING... WAY.
SLRINT
ACGHK!

WHRIP
THERE GOES YOUR STREAK, HAWK.
THE FIRST OF MANY THINGS YOU LOSE TONIGHT.
WHAM
111995--1... AND ONE! AND SHOCKING ONE!
WHAT ELSE IS THERE TO LOSE? AND FOR WHAT?
SOME KID WHO TALKS TO MACHINES?
NO.
NOT FOR HIM.
NO! YOU-- YOUR FACE! IT CAN'T BE...
YOU CAN'T BE ALIVE! THERE'S NO WAY! IT'S--
BEEP

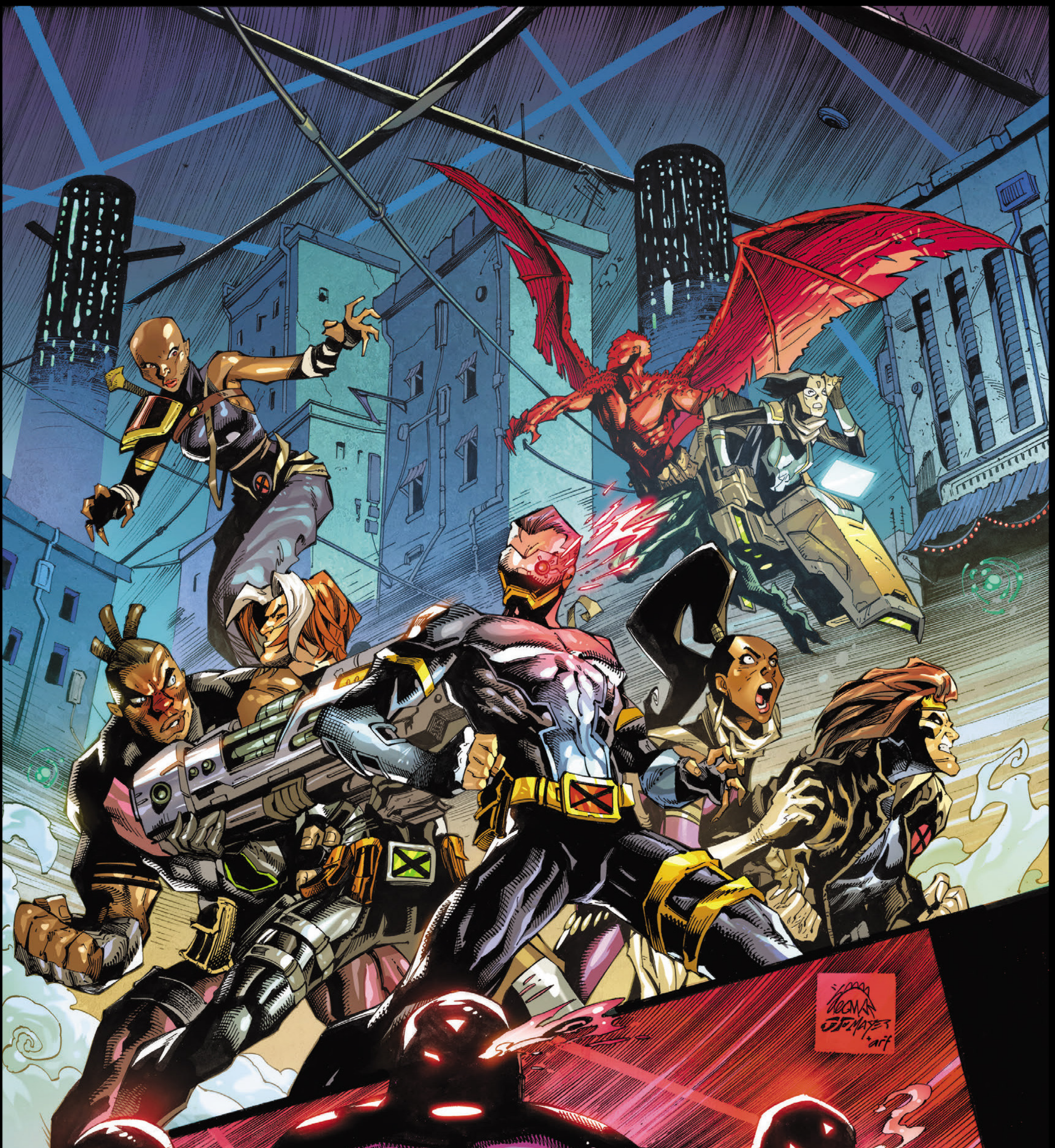
BEEP
SZHOOM

FOR SHOT 52.
FOR MY SISTER.
FOR NATASHA.
CHOOM
IS...THAT IT? WON'T THERE BE SOME KIND OF SIGNAL?
NOT SURE SHE'S THE TYPE.
"HAWKEYE MISSED.
Любимая сестра, это Елена. И каконец…
наконец... он мёртвы.
"WE'RE ALIVE...

"THAT'S THE BLACK WIDOW'S SIGNAL."
THE ONTARIO EXPANSE.
ZWOOM
DIDN'T FIGURE YOU FOR A DRIVER.
YOU SEE MUCH TO SWING ON FROM OUT HERE? IT'S A REFURBISHED PUBLIC EYE SPINNER.
A GIFT FROM A FRIEND. HE'S RIDING SHOTGUN, DORMANT IN THE NAVIGATION SYSTEM.
YOU'LL SEE SOON ENOUGH. GHOST RIDER'S KEY TO THE FINAL PUSH.

FINAL PUSH? FIRST, YOU RESCUE ME. THEN DRIVE ME TOWARD THE DANGER?
THE CELESTIAL GARDEN'S THE ONE PLACE WE KNOW THE CABAL'S GOING TO BE.
RIGHT. SO WE CAN MAKE THEM MORTAL. YOU GOT A PLAN TO GO WITH THAT SUICIDAL BUZZ-PHRASE?
THE CABAL'S BLACK CARDS PUT THEM ABOVE THE LAW. THAT'S THEIR REAL POWER. SO, I'VE LURED THEM OUT.
THEY'VE GOT TO COME FOR THE GARDEN THEMSELVES. AND WHEN THEY DO, WHEN OSBORN DOES...
...THAT'S OUR SHOT AT THE CARDS. THEY'VE LORDED OVER EARTH FOR YEARS. THEY HOLD US DOWN?
WE TEAR THEM DOWN. FOR GOOD. RIGHT AS THEY TRY TO CLAIM THEIR GREATEST--
SKREEEEEET
--PRIZE.
THAT'S A REAL NICE SCHEME, SPIDER-MAN.
GOOD THOUGHT ABOUT SAVING PARADISE. BUT I HOPE YOU BROUGHT A LOT OF WEB...

"...BECAUSE OSBORN'S CREW'S ALREADY HERE.
"AND THEY BROUGHT ***ALL*** THE ***SENTINELS.***"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THE CELESTIAL GARDEN.
THIS DOESN'T QUITE FEEL...
...IDEAL. THE ODDS AREN'T GREAT.
WE'RE THE ONLY THINGS LEFT TO STOP THE CABAL FROM CASHING IN ON THE GARDEN'S POWER...
BOOM
...AND OSBORN'S CREW HAS US LAUGHABLY OUTNUMBERED.
GUESS IT'S TIME TO GET SERIOUS.
WE'RE NOT THE ONLY ONES PROTECTING THE GARDEN, NOSTROMO. SOMEONE'S IN THERE FIGHTING BACK.
READY TO FIND OUT WHO?

DAYS BEFORE. UNDERTOWN.
VROOOMM
WE'RE LOW ON RATIONS. I DOUBT THERE'S ANYTHING LEFT HERE OF USE.
SEEN ENOUGH BURNT-OUT TOWNS BETWEEN HERE AND THE TRANSVERSE TO LAST A LIFETIME, CAPTAIN HADDAD.
AND YOU'RE STILL YOUNG, CABLE. THOUGH NOT AS YOUNG AS YOUR LAST VISIT.
GROWN UP A LOT SINCE I WAS AN AVENGER. WAR'S A HELL OF A FINISHING SCHOOL.
IT'S A GOOD ONE. I DON'T KNOW WHERE WE'D BE WITHOUT YOUR GRIT.
THE SCAVENGING LIFE TAKES ITS TOLL. COMPARED TO THIS...

"...I ALMOST MISS THE SAVAGE LAND.
"BUT IT'S GONE, THANKS TO THE CABAL. THE SCREAMS WERE EVEN LOUDER THAN THE LAUGHTER...
"...AS THEY AND THEIR SENTINELS BLAZED OUR HOME FOR KICKS."
COME, CABLE. NORTHSTAR HAS NEWS. AND WE COULD USE THE GOOD KIND.
MORALE IS LOW. EVEN KATE PRYDE WOULD'VE STRUGGLED TO LEAD THIS MANY.
WHEN I LEFT, PRYDE WAS CAPTAIN TO A SHIP OF EIGHT SOULS.
GIVE YOURSELF SOME CREDIT. YOU'RE LEADING ALL THAT'S LEFT.
CEREBRA! I CAME AS FAST AS I COULD. YOU ASKED ME TO FIND US A HOME...
I'VE BEEN SEARCHING. MEDITATING WITH ROGUE. FOCUSING MY GIFT.
I JUST GOT A HEADING. A GARDEN OFF ONTARIO, RICH IN PRICELESS MINERALS, RARE ENERGIES, COSMIC ORES...
...WITH A MUTANT AT ITS CENTER.
...THIS COULD BE IT.
A HOME. AT LAST.
STOP THE TRAIN, NORTHSTAR...

"...AND GATHER THE X-MEN."
BLOODHAWK. TRANSMORPH. DESERT MYTH.
ROGUE. POWER ABSORPTION. LIVING LEGACY.
MY FRIENDS...
PHOENIX. PYROMANTIC REGENERATION. PROVOCATION.
TULKAS. ADRENOKINETIC. JOLLY BRAWLER.
NORTHSTAR. NAVIGATOR. OPTIMIST.
CABLE. TIME-SLIDING SOLDIER. STRATEGIST.
KRYSTALIN. CRYSTALLIZATION. DIE-HARD.
CEREBRA. BIOMETRIC TELEPATH. CURRENTLY DEPOWERED.
DEADPOOL. HEALING FACTOR. ALLERGY TO SILENCE.
SKULLFIRE. ENERGY DYNAMO. DEVIL'S ADVOCATE.
CYCLOPS. LINE-OF-SIGHT TRANSMUTATION. MORBID HUMOR.

...SINCE THE SCOURING OF THE SAVAGE LAND, WE'VE FOUGHT FOR EVERY MOMENT--EVERY MEAL.
TODAY, THE END OF OUR NOMADIC DAYS IS IN SIGHT.
A HOME AWAITS US. DUE NORTH...IN THE ONTARIO EXPANSE.
A PARADISE WITH A MUTANT AS ITS SEED. ONE OF OUR OWN.
SO, LIKE, SQUATTER'S RIGHTS OR--?
KEEP TALKING, WARDA. IT'LL BE CRYSTAL CLOTS IN YOUR BLOOD AGAIN.
DON'T EXPOSE MY KINK!
DOES THIS PARADISE NOT BELONG TO WHOEVER'S ALREADY THERE?
JUS' A MOMENT, BLOODHAWK. AH'M REMEMBERIN' EMMA... AN' SENSIN' NO LOCAL FOLK.
JUST TRAVELERS LIKE US. THEY'RE CALLIN' IT THA CELESTIAL GARDEN.
A MUTANT LAND. WITH WONDERS GROWN FROM MUTANT GIFTS.
CIRCLE THE CAMP. REST UP...

"...WE LEAVE AT FIRST LIGHT."
SEEM TENSE, RUTH. GOT AN ITCH?
EXCITED. YOUR SISTER'S STILL MISSING, WARDA. SO ARE MEANSTREAK AND THE X-PEDITIONERS.
BUT IF THIS WORKS? IF WE DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT JUST SURVIVING...
"...WE CAN FINALLY FOCUS ON OUR OWN QUESTS."
YOU TOOK THE NEWS LIKE A FUNERAL.
HUMANS WON'T JUST GIVE UP THIS LAND, CYCLOPS. MIGHT NEED YOUR GIFT.
MY "GIFT" TURNED MY MOM INTO SALT THE FIRST TIME I USED IT. LOST ONE EYE. CUT OUT THE OTHER...
"...AND EVERY TIME I PUT IT BACK IN, PEOPLE GET HURT."
A MUTANT NAME LOOKS GOOD ON YOU, SKULLFIRE.
AFTER THE SAVAGE LAND... IT FINALLY FELT RIGHT, PHOENIX. IT WAS TIME.
JUST STICK CLOSE AND STAY HOT. MIGHT NEED YOU TO BURN ME BACK TO LIFE IF THE ROAD GETS BLOODY.
YA LOOK ANXIOUS, NORTHSTAR.
I CAN LEAD PEOPLE ANYWHERE, ROGUE... WHAT IF I'M LEADING US INTO BATTLE?
WELL, SUGAH, AH'M REMEMBERIN' MAGNETO RIGHT NOW, N' HE'S SAYIN'...

"...THERE AIN'T NO HOME THAT COMES WITHOUT A FIGHT."
I KNOW YOU CAN'T SAY WHAT YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS TIME, CABLE...
...BUT HOW ABOUT A HINT? I AM YOUR CAPTAIN, AFTER ALL.
IF I WERE GOING TO BREAK THE RULES, I COULDN'T SAY IT.
YOU'D JUST HAVE TO READ IT... ON MY FACE.
NEED SOME PRIVACY, YOU TWO?
BEEN OUT IN THE WILDS TUSSLING WITH VULTURES. BUT I CAN HEAD IN. BUILT UP PLENTY OF ADRENALINE TO BURN FOR WHATEVER'S AHEAD.
I'M YOUNG AND TOUGH FOR ANOTHER DAY. ENOUGH TO MAKE KID COMMANDO FLINCH, AT LEAST.
STOW THE BOASTS, TULKAS. TOMORROW, THE X-MEN WILL GO AHEAD TO SECURE THE GARDEN.
YOU AND MER-MAX WILL STAY TO PROTECT OUR PEOPLE.
COPY THAT, CAPTAIN.
LEAVE THE X-NATION TO ME AND THE WHALE...
...WHILE YOU FIND US A PLACE TO PARK.
WE WILL NOT FAIL. WHEN NEXT WE MEET, TULKAS...

"...IT WILL BE IN *PARADISE.*"
X-MEN, WE'VE *ARRIVED.*
I'VE GOT A BETTER HEADING ON THE *MUTANT.* NORTHWEST, *DEEPER* IN.
THAT IS ONE BIG PILE OF--
DROPPINGS. LIKE A CONDOR'S, BUT THE DIET'S MORE LIKE A HORSE'S...
YOU'VE GOT THE *BEST* HOBBIES.
THIS AIN'T NO *NORMAL* GARDEN. AH'M REMEMBERIN' *HINDSIGHT*...N' PICKIN' UP *A LOT.*
THESE'RE *HEALIN'* WATERS. LIKE *AMNION.* BUT NOT *HUMAN*...
...THIS SPRUNG UP FROM A *CELESTIAL'S* CORPSE. AN' THAT *MUTANT,* HE'S--
BRING THE X-MEN TO MY MARK, NORTHSTAR...

"...WE'VE GOT A PROBLEM."
NOW THAT'S A BIG PILE OF--
ADAMANTIUM. I CAN READ ITS CRYSTAL STRUCTURE... I THOUGHT IT WAS ALL GONE.
YOU'RE SURE THERE'S A MUTANT INSIDE, NORTHSTAR?
ANY WAY I MAP IT, THE MUTANT'S HEADING POINTS HERE.
BURIED IN INDESTRUCTIBLE METAL. I KNOW THE RISKS, CYCLOPS, BUT WE CAN'T STOP NOW--
NO. NO WAY.
I PUT MY EYE IN AND MAYBE I TRANSMUTE THE MOUNTAIN. OR TURN YOU INTO SAND OR AIR OR--
COWARD.
HE'S NO COWARD, PHOENIX. HE'S LIVIN' IN THA DARK BY CHOICE. FER OUR SAFETY.
TSSSS
AN' IT'S AHLRIGHT. AH'M REMEMBERIN' VOGHT...
...N' WITH A BOOST FROM CORTEZ, WE CAN TURN SOLID TA GAS...

...N' MOVE THIS MOUNTAIN.
WHHISSSSSSSPP
NG
WAIT. THERE...
THERE'S A.R. DATA ON THE LABEL. "BIOHAZARD"...
...PROPERTY OF DOOM. AND THE NAME. IT'S MINE, OR IT ALMOST IS...
NATE GREY?

YOU WANTED A MUTANT? WHICH PART OF HIM?
THIS...CHANGES NOTHING. IT'S NOT WHAT WE EXPECTED.
BUT THERE'S MUTANT LIFE HERE. IT COULD STILL BE OUR HOME.
BRRRRUMBLE
HEAR THAT? FOOTSTEPS.
IF THIS'S HOME, THE NEIGHBORS'RE KNOCKING.
I KNEW THEY COULDN'T STAY AWAY. NOT FROM THIS.
ROGUE-- THE MUTANT REMAINS!
AHLREADY MOVIN', HAWK. AH'LL REMEMBER DOOP...
...AN' KEEP 'EM SAFE.
DWOOP

KRAKOOM
MUTANTS... DESIST OR DIE!
MUTANTS... DESIST OR DIE!
CABAL SENTINELS.
SINGE MY SOUL IN THE WHITE HOT ROOM...

"...THEY'RE STEALING **THIS** FROM US **TOO.** JUST LIKE THE **SAVAGE LAND.**
MUTANTS... DESIST OR DIE!
ANYONE UP FOR **"OR DIE"**?
THE **CABAL** ISN'T... NO ONE'S **HOME.** THESE ARE JUST **REMOTE DEATH DRONES.**
"THEY COULDN'T EVEN DO IT **THEMSELVES** THIS TIME.
"COULDN'T **BOTHER** TO GET THEIR **HANDS** DIRTY."
YOU **HEAR** ME?! YOU'RE **GUTLESS!** YOU COULDN'T EVEN **SHOW UP?!**
X-MEN... SEND THIS **TRASH** BACK IN **PIECES.**
PIECES?

FOOM
TRY ASHES!
KRYSTALIN! NO!
YOUR PILLAR WON'T FORM IN TIME!
CEREBRA?! STAY BACK!
KRIKL-ZAK-ZAK
ARGH--SHOCK! MY EYE! HOW...
...HOW SHOCKING FAR COULD IT HAVE BEEN BLOWN...?
MOVE! YOU'VE GOT TO--
ZOOM
DESIST OR D--
ZZZZZZZZZZTTT
WHAK
NO...

"CEREBRA!"
BOOM
IT WAS ONLY A SPLIT-SECOND. SHAKTI, SHE...
...SHE SAVED MY LIFE. I KILLED THE SENTINEL, BUT...
...BUT WE CAN'T LET IT KILL CEREBRA. TELL ME THERE'S A WAY, CABLE.
THERE COULD BE. THERE MIGHT BE...BUT NOT HERE.
TIME-SLIDE BY TWO.
BLINK
WE'LL USE YOUR SKULL FOR COMPOST, MONSTER.
KRRRRANK
HELP! SOMEONE! MY SHOCKING EYE!
A PANICKED CRY FOR HELP?

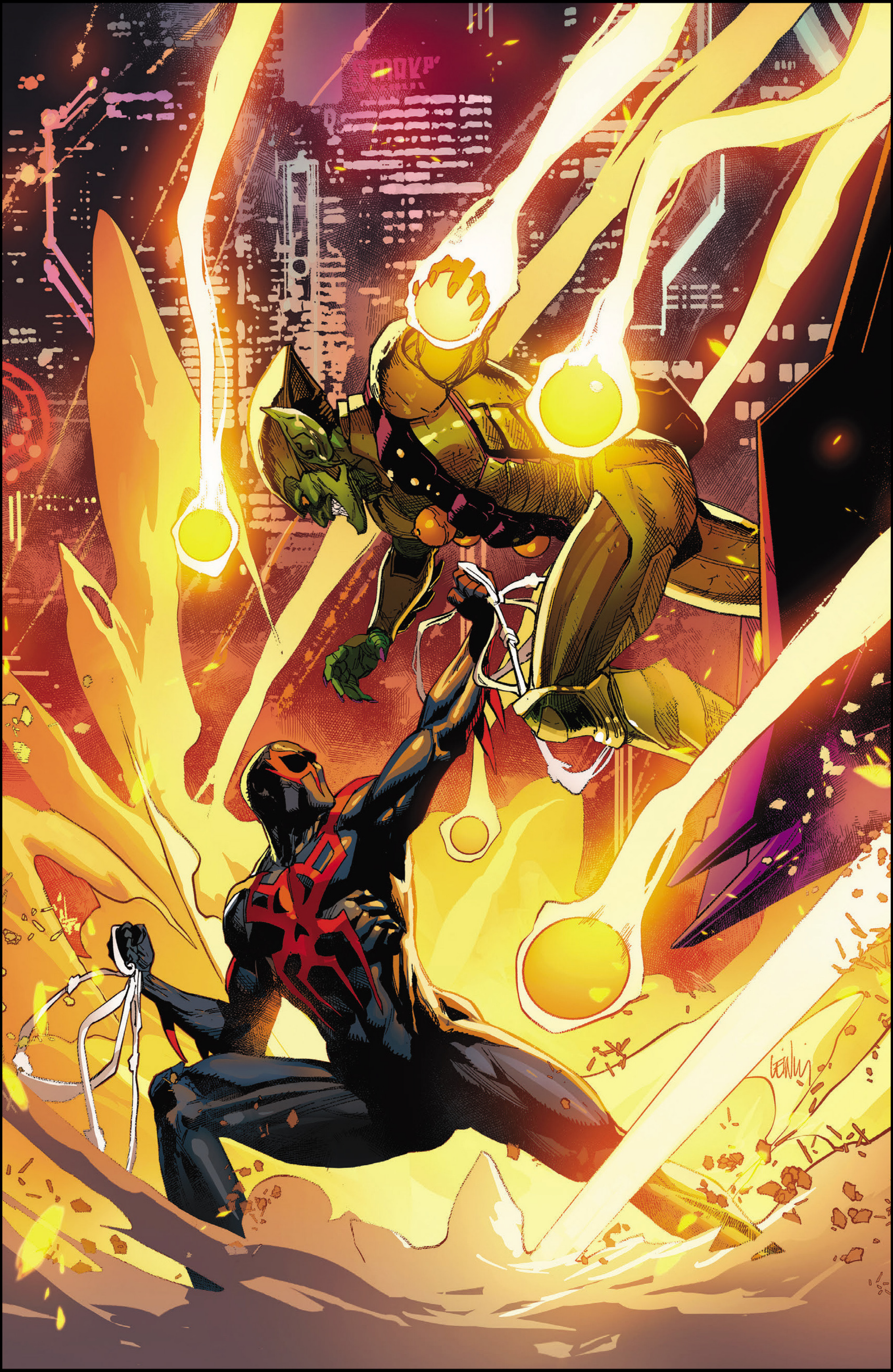
ZOOM
THAT'S PRACTICALLY MY RINGTONE!
SPIDER-MAN?
AND HIS UNCANNY FRIEND. LONG TIME, X-MEN... AND GOOD WORK.
THESE SENTINELS ARE SCREAMING DEFEAT DATA BACK TO THE CABAL. BUT FROM WHAT I CAN HEAR...
THUD

...SOMETHING WORSE IS ON THE WAY.
KRRRAAANK
FINALLY. WORSE COULD ONLY MEAN ONE THING. ONE MAN.
"ABOUT TIME I LOOKED NORMAN OSBORN IN THE EYE."
THERE YOU ARE.
GOT A HEADING ON YOUR EYE, CYKE...
WORSE? I'M STILL BURNING SHUT THIS ROUND'S WOUNDS...
"...WE'RE LOSING THIS LAND."
RRRIP
THERE'LL BE MORE, CYCLOPS. BUT YOU CAN STOP THIS WAVE. WE TRUST YOU.
RIGHT. LISTEN, I'LL OPEN MY EYE. BUT WHEN I DO, JUST MAKE SURE...
...ANYONE YOU CARE ABOUT'S BEHIND ME.

RRAAGH!
FWAZZZZ
SPLASH
LOOK AT THAT. THIS MUST BE PARADISE. CYCLOPS FINALLY MADE HIMSELF USEFUL.
SHOCK OFF AND DIE, PHOENIX. AND SOMEONE FIND ME SOME ALCOHOL.
I CUT A DEAL WITH MY NERVES AND IT'S TIME TO PAY UP.

DON'T POP THAT CORK YET. NOSTROMO SAID THIS WAS JUST A TEASER.
EVEN IF IT IS, WHY'RE YOU HERE, SPIDER?
THIS IS MUTANT LAND. YOU'VE BEEN AN ALLY. DON'T MAKE YOURSELF AN ENEMY.
DO I LOOK LIKE A MAN WHO'D ARGUE WITH A GARGOYLE?
SPIDER-MAN'S WITH US. HE GOT HAWKEYE OFF MY BACK. GOT ME HERE...
...ADMITTEDLY, TO HELP WITH HIS SUICIDAL PLAN.
ZZZT
ZZZT
IT'S THE BEST PLAN WE'VE GOT. NOSTROMO GETS GHOST RIDER INSIDE THE CABAL'S HUB.
THE TWO OF THEM KILL THE BLACK CARDS. WE DROP OSBORN'S CREW, AND YOU GET YOUR HOME.
THE X-NATION IS ON ITS WAY. WE'D WELCOME YOUR HELP IF YOU ACCEPT OUR CLAIM.
WE CAN ARGUE LAND RIGHTS AT THE AFTER-PARTY. DEAL?
THE COMMS ON THIS DEAD HEAD ARE BLOWING UP...

"NORMAN OSBORN'S AT THE DOOR, AND HE BROUGHT ALL HIS FRIENDS."
"GOOD, NOSTROMO.
"OSBORN MOVED HEAVEN AND EARTH TO GROW THIS GARDEN..."
...BUT HE'LL HAVE TO GO THROUGH SPIDER-MAN AND THE X-MEN TO GET IT.



OMEGA

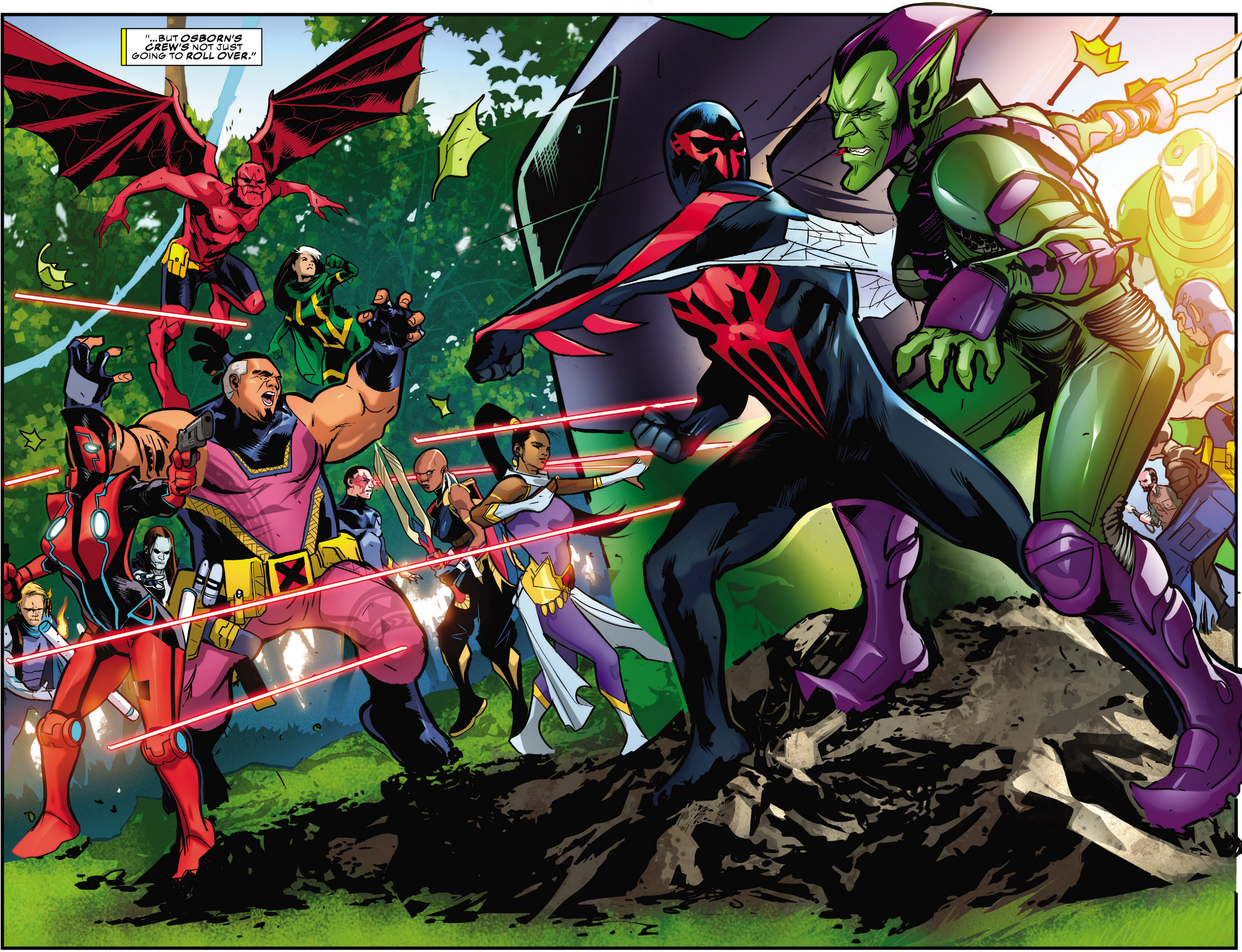
EARTH-2099. A REALITY REWOVEN...
...UNIFIED FROM DISPARATE TIMELINES. BELOW, A PACK OF HUMANS HAS DEIFIED THEMSELVES...
...THROUGH SMALL BLACK CARDS, THEIR SYMBOL OF WEALTH AND INFLUENCE. THE CABAL...
...WHO'VE ENGINEERED AND BIRTHED A CELESTIAL GARDEN. AN EDEN...
...RIFE WITH SUPER-MEDICINES AND SUPER-METALS. NEW WAYS TO CREATE OR DESTROY. I...
...AM ULANA. THE WATCHER. SWORN TO OBSERVE. TO NEVER INTERFERE. EVEN HERE...
VZZT--ERROR--DZZT--SIGNAL BLOCKED--VZZT--SIGNAL BLOCKED--DZZT
...THE WORLD THAT MURDERED MY LOVER, LEAVING ME TO TAKE UATU'S POST.
HERE I FIGHT MY EVERY URGE FOR VENGEANCE. I UPHOLD MY VOW...AND WATCH.
WATCH...AS THE CABAL SACKS THE GARDEN, HUNGRY FOR NEW HEIGHTS OF DEPRAVITY.
AND AS ONE MAN LEADS THE FIGHT AGAINST THEM. AS, AT THE GATES OF PARADISE...

"...A SPIDER FACES A GOBLIN."
O'HARA.
DON'T COMPLICATE THIS. STAND DOWN OR BE PUT DOWN.
I'VE FOUGHT THE REAL SPIDER-MAN HUNDREDS OF TIMES.
FUNNY, OSBORN.
I ONLY PLAN ON FIGHTING YOU ONCE.

OF COURSE. YOU'RE NOT FUNNY. NOT LIKE PETER. YOU'RE THE TOUGH ONE.
I'M THE ONE WHO BOOTSTRAPPED HIS WAY TO THE TOP. WHO TURNED THIS PLANET INTO A PLAYGROUND FOR THOSE WITH BUY-IN.
DEET
A BLACK CARD WON'T SAVE YOU FROM ME.
I COULD PULL OFF YOUR LEGS ONE BY ONE. NO ONE IN THE WORLD WOULD STOP ME.
I PULLED A DEAD GOD OUT OF THE SKY! SO MUCH FOR DOOM. SURE...
...HE KILLED A CELESTIAL WITH PSIONIC ADAMANTIUM. BUT HE WAS TOO STUPID TO SEE WHAT HE'D MADE.
THE SEED FOR A GARDEN OF MUTANT AND CELESTIAL POWER. SO, YES...
...THE MUTANTS CAN GO AHEAD AND CLAIM THIS LAND. I JUST DON'T CARE. I DON'T NEED TO.
THE MASTERS OF EVIL COULD'VE STOLEN IT OUT FROM UNDER ME. BUT YOU TOOK THEM OFF THE BOARD.
NOW THE GARDEN'S GIFTS WILL PUT GALAXIES IN MY GRIP. THIS GREEN CHRYSALIS...
KRIKL
KREETCH
...IT WON'T BE ABLE TO HOLD ME ANYMORE, SPIDER. I'LL CRACK THE SHELL AND EMERGE...
...WET AND NEW. I'LL RISE, AT LAST...

...THE GALACTIC GOBLIN!

YOU'RE NERVOUS, NOSTROMO.
JAM RIGHT, BLOODHAWK. I'M A TECHNOPATH, NOT A THIEF!
TODAY, YOU'RE BOTH, KID...
"...IF WE WANT SPIDER-MAN'S STRATEGY TO WORK."
AGGRESSION'S ALL THESE TYPES UNDERSTAND. OSBORN'S THE ORIGINAL WHITE-COLLAR RED MEAT EATER.
TOUGH TALK FROM THE GHOST IN THE MACHINE, RIDER.
I'M NOT IN YET. AND WITHOUT YOU, I WON'T BE.
THE CABAL'S NETWORK'S DARK. NO NONLOCAL ACCESS.
"OUR ONLY WAY IN IS OSBORN'S BLACK CARD."
RIGHT. KEY ITS EMERGENCY TRANSPORT. GET LOCAL ACCESS. BLAZE THEIR FINANCIALS.
NO MONEY. NO CARDS. NO PROTECTION. THEY'LL ALL BE VULNERABLE. FINALLY.
SPIDER-MAN SAID HE'D DELIVER THE CARD AS LONG AS THE X-MEN HELD THE LINE...


"...BUT OSBORN'S CREW'S NOT JUST GOING TO ROLL OVER."

THWIP
THIS ISN'T YOUR CENTURY, GOBLIN.
GET GOING, KID!
NUMBERS AREN'T EXACTLY IN OUR FAVOR HERE!
I'VE OWNED IT SINCE BEFORE YOU WERE BORN!
MOVE! YOUR FRIENDS CAN'T HOLD OFF THESE SHOCK TROOPS FOREVER.
LOG OFF, RIDER. I'M THE ONE RISKING MY BODY HERE.
YOU DUG YOUR CLAWS IN DEEP, OSBORN. NO DOUBT...
...BUT TIMES CHANGE.

THWIP
CATCH
NOTHING LASTS FOREVER!
SPLORT
I DO.
I OUTLIVED THE GREATEST OF THE SO-CALLED HEROIC AGE...
...AND TOASTED THE NEXT WITH THE BLOOD OF THE AVENGERS!
I READ THIS FUTURE IN THEIR OUTSTRETCHED GUTS! TELL ME...
...WHAT DO YOU THINK I'LL SEE IN YOURS?

THAT FEELING YOU'VE GOT, LIKE A GAZELLE IN THE JAWS OF A LION? THAT'S WHAT THIS CARD MEANS.
IT'S A RESERVATION AT THE TOP OF THE FOOD CHAIN.
LYLA?
HEY, BOSS. JUST BEEN HERE IDLING.
I'VE HEARD ENOUGH. HIT THE GAS.
VRROOOOOM
HITTING IT.

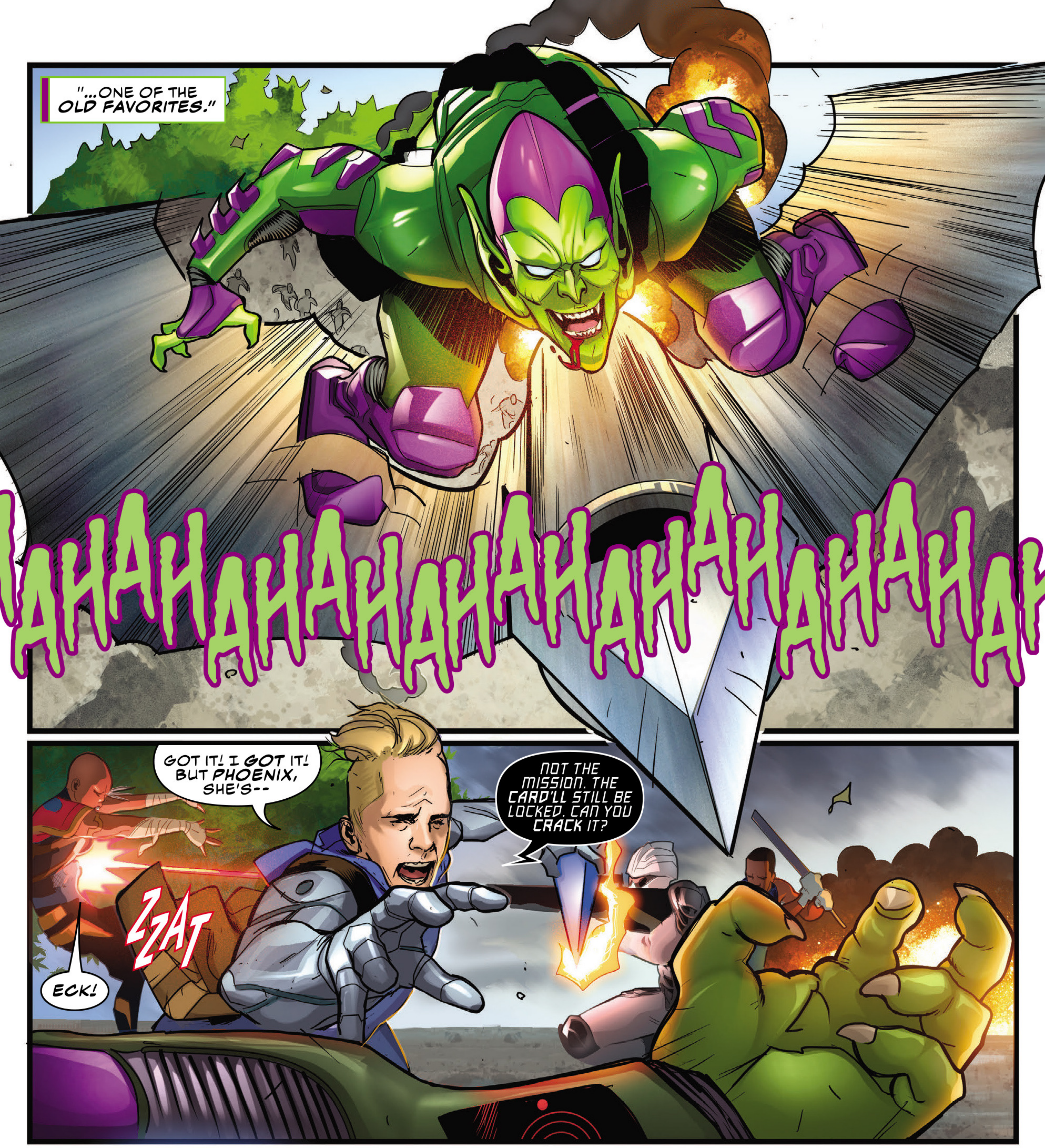
VOOOORRRM
CHOOOM
SLERRRRRIT
SOME THINGS REALLY ARE ETERNAL.
SPIDERS BELONG UNDER MY BOOT. AND FROM DOWN THERE...
CHOK
ARGHK!
...YOU DO LOOK LIKE PETER AFTER ALL.

HAVE AT THEE, GALACTIC GOBLIN!
SHUNK
NYYYAAARGH!!
STILL TOO MUCH?
NEW ASGARD'S RUBBING OFF ON ME.

SLLERINGK
TOOK YOUR TIME, VALKYRIE.
I SAID I'D COME WHEN YOU NEEDED ME, SPIDER. MY WORD IS MY VOW.
CHOT
YOU WERE DOING SO WELL WITHOUT ME, AFTER ALL.
WASTE RAT! I'LL TAKE MORE THAN YOUR HAND!
GET DOWN!
LET GO! I'M TRYING TO GET US OUT OF HERE!
I'M TRYING TO KEEP US FROM--
THWIP
THWIP
--EXPLODING.
OH. I SEE.

YOU BROUGHT YOUR *SPECIAL HORSE.*
IT'S A *PROPRIETARY* DESIGN. ENJOY THE *RIDE.*
SKIN: *CAUTERIZE.*
DREET
SSSSSIZZZZZLLLLIT

YOU CATCH THAT?
THE KILL TEAMS OR THE SENTINELS? BE SPECIFIC.
DON'T BE SO DRAMATIC.
"THE X-MEN ARE LOSING GROUND, BUT SLOWLY..."
...AND OSBORN'S BLACK CARD'S IN PLAY, THANKS TO THE VALKYRIE.
SHOCKING GREAT. WE'VE STILL GOT TO LIVE LONG ENOUGH TO GET IT.
KRAK
BOOM
THOOM
SPIDER!
SKIN: PYM POCKET FOURTEEN.
DREET
GIVE ME A GLIDER...
DREET
DREET


"...ONE OF THE OLD FAVORITES."
HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAH
GOT IT! I GOT IT! BUT PHOENIX, SHE'S--
NOT THE MISSION. THE CARD'LL STILL BE LOCKED. CAN YOU CRACK IT?
ZZAT
ECK!
WITH SOME SWEET TALK. YOU KNOW, THE OPPOSITE OF WHAT YOU DO--
CLICK
GOOD WORK. UNLOCKED.
ACTIVATING EMERGENCY TRANSPORT...
BLINK

"...AND DOWN THE RABBIT HOLE WE GO."
WE'RE NOT ALONE UP HERE, VALKYRIE.
FIGURED NOT. JUST THOUGHT YOU'D NEED A BREATH BEFORE YOUR MOMENT.
JUST TOOK IT. I'LL CATCH YOU IN VALHALLA...
KRACK
"...BUT NOT TOO SOON."
SPLUSHOOM

ARCTIC CORDILLERA.
WHAT THE SHOCK IS THIS PLACE?
OPEN TO GUESTS, NOW THAT WE'RE LOCAL. OSBORN'S OVER 100 YEARS OLD...
...HIS GOBLIN SERUM KEEPS HIM FRESH, WITH SOME HELP FROM HIS DESCENDANTS.
NO... SO THIS IS--
A COUSIN? A GREAT-NEPHEW? HE BLEEDS THEM DRY TO BOOST HIS JUICE.
REAL SICK STUFF. WANT TO WHINE ABOUT IT OR STOP IT?
THINK I'LL STAY ANGRY. YOU FEELING WHAT I'M FEELING? LIKE WE'RE INSIDE A HEAD...
...AS IT'S TALKING TO US. THIS WHOLE ROOM'S A COMPUTER. A MACHINE TO SUPPORT OSBORN.
MONITORING HIS BODY. HIS TRANSPORT. THE BLACK CARDS. EVERYTHING HIS CABAL DOES.
BET HE THOUGHT IT WAS SAFE WHILE HE HAD THE ONLY KEY.
CONNECT THE DATADRIVE, KID.
BEEP
DON'T WORRY. SOON AS I'M IN...
...IT'S ALL FLAMMABLE TO ME.

HEALED IN AN INSTANT. LOOK AROUND! IMMUNE SYSTEMS FOR IDEAS...
...TEMPORAL DIGESTIVE ACIDS TO MELT WHOLE BLOODLINES. TERROR TROOPS HIGH ON HOLY ADRENALINE.
THESE ARE MY MIRACLES. I BUILT THEM. NOT THE MASTERS. NOT DOOM... ME.
BURN FASTER, ZERO! YOU SAW WHAT WE LEFT BEHIND!
THEY'RE NOT YOURS YET!
WE WERE LOSING!
ONLY YOU COULD SEE DEATH MACHINES IN PARADISE--
BLIP
FIND THEIR BLOOD MONEY AND BURN IT!
UNCLENCH. I'M THERE.
GACHOOM
"I'VE GOT THEIR ACCOUNTS, I'M INSIDE THEIR VAULT...

FWOOSH
"...AND I BROUGHT A MATCH."
NUEVA YORK.
FWOOSH
NICE VISUAL EFFECT. YOU'RE A GHOST WITH STYLE.
SHOCK THE BLAZE FAMILY. AFTER HOW MANY PEOPLE THE CABAL HURT...
"...I'M THEIR SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE."
AGHK!
HEY! BUDDY! I THINK SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH YOUR FASTPASS...
"...GUESS YOU'LL HAVE TO GO TO THE BACK OF THE LINE."
THE BLACK CARDS. ALL OF THEM...

"...they're BURNING to BONE."
WHAT--WHAT'S HAPPENING? THE CARDS! THEY--THEY'RE BLANK. THERE'S NOTHING TO THEM...
JUST LIKE THAT? THEY'RE DEAD?
OSBORN PROMISED MAYHEM! NO STRINGS! AND IF...
...IF THAT'S OVER, IF WE'RE BROKE, WELL...
...YOU MUTIES MIGHT'VE NUKED OUR BLACK CARDS, BUT WE'RE NOT GOING DOWN ALONE!
KILLER. WE'RE STUCK PAYING FOR NOSTROMO AND GHOST RIDER'S WIN.
SHOCK...I HOPED WE WOULDN'T NEED IT. DIDN'T LOVE THE IDEA OF BRINGING IN MORE OUTSIDERS.
BUT SPIDER-MAN DIDN'T EXACTLY LEAVE US WITHOUT BACKUP.
FIZZL SNAKA KRAK
I...AM FILLED WITH REGRET.

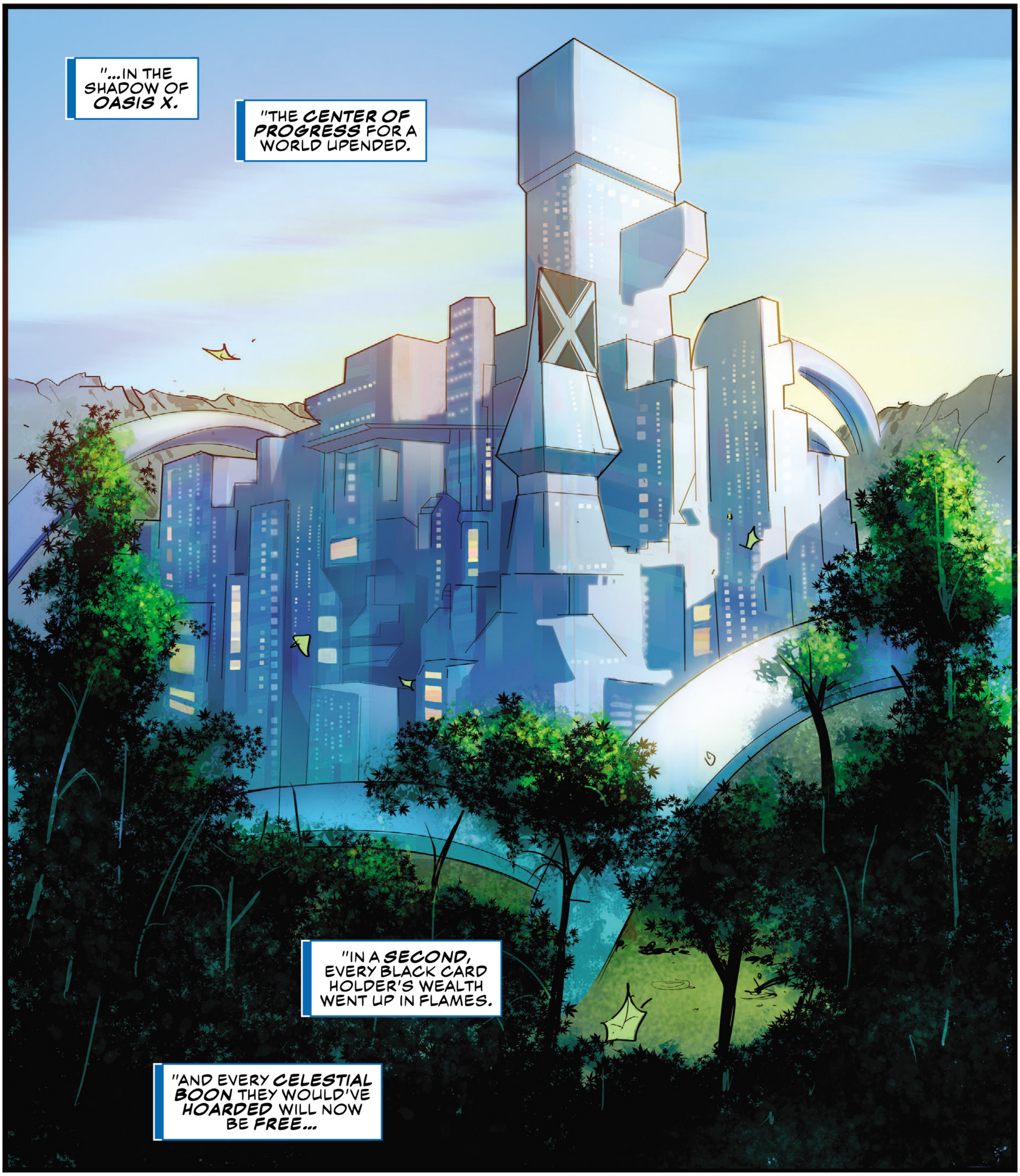
AVENGERS... ASSEMBLE!

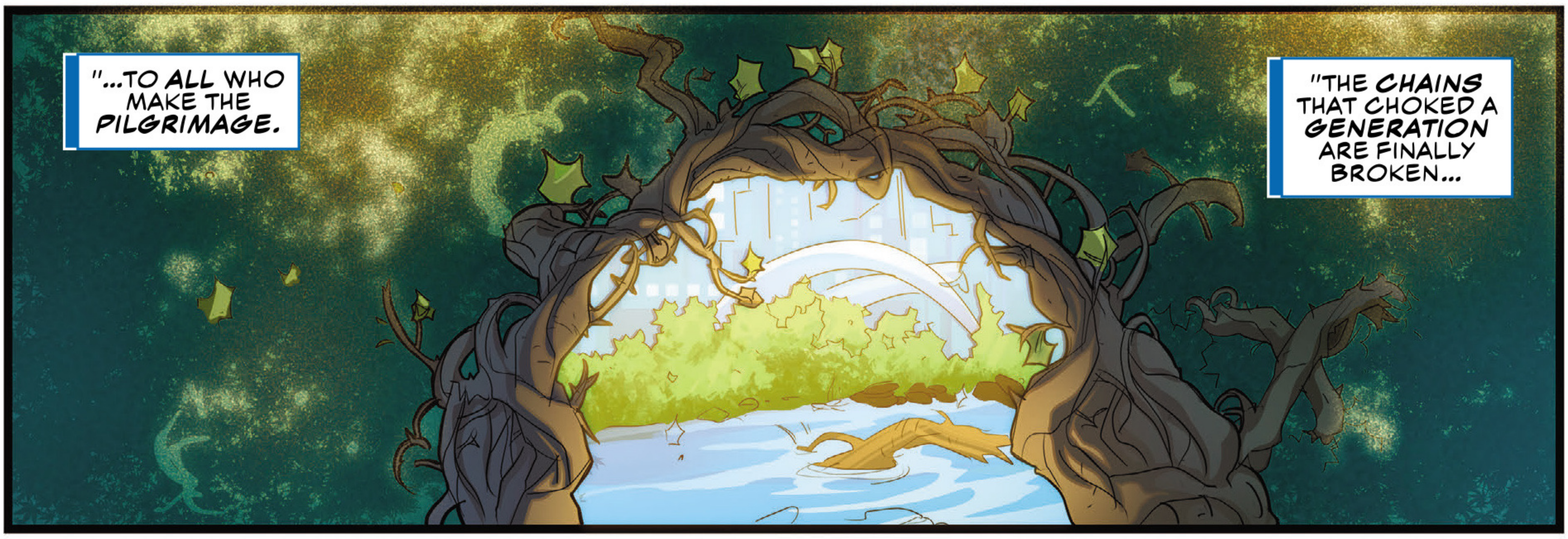
WE HEARD THE CALL. THOUGH IT WASN'T THE X-MEN WE EXPECTED.
AND I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D BE THE NEW AVENGERS.
DIRECT FROM PLANET WAKANDA. THE GALAXY'S MIGHTIEST HEROES.
SO-- SO WHAT? THE MASTERS SLAUGHTERED THE LAST AVENGERS!
NO WAY YOU REJECTS STOP US FROM GOING OUT IN A BLAZE OF GLOR--
--EEGK!
ANYONE ELSE OFFERING TEETH AND LAST WORDS?
SPIDER-MAN'S MADE GOOD ON HIS VOW.
THE CABAL IS POWERLESS BUT FOR THEIR OWN FISTS.
NOT ALL OF THEM, MOON KNIGHT. THE SPIDER LEFT OSBORN'S MEN TO US...

"...BUT SAVED THE GALACTIC GOBLIN FOR HIMSELF."
THIS REALLY IS PARADISE, O'HARA!
I CAN KILL YOU AS MANY TIMES AS I WANT!
AGAIN! HIT ME AGAIN! WEB ME AGAIN!
LET'S PLAY ALL THE GOOD-TIME SONGS!
THWIP
I KEEP TELLING YOU, OSBORN. THIS ISN'T THE OLD DAYS.
I'M NOT PETER PARKER. HE FOUGHT YOU OVER AND OVER.
I NEVER WANT TO DO IT AGAIN.
TWANG

KRASH
SNAP
YOUR LONG REIGN IS OVER. I HOPE YOU FULLY UNDERSTAND THAT. YOUR EVERY CRIME...
...EVERY DROP OF BLOOD YOU SPILLED COMES WITH A FEE.
AND ALL OF WAKANDA IS ABOUT TO COLLECT.
YOU PULLED THE STRINGS, OSBORN. YOU BUILT HEAVEN ON EARTH... BUT YOU DON'T OWN IT.
LEAVE US A FEW, MOON KNIGHT. THIS GARDEN NEEDS FERTILIZING.
PUNISH WHO YOU LIKE, BLOODHAWK. BUT VENGEANCE CALLS THE REST TO THE STARS.
YOU'RE DONE, GOBLIN. YOUR CREW'S DONE. PENNILESS. FRIENDLESS. AND HOPELESS...
WELCOME TO 2099.
WELCOME...

"...TO YOUR FUTURE."
AND SO, THE SICK BOIL KNOWN AS NORMAN OSBORN HAS AT LAST BEEN LANCED.
THE CABAL, WHO LONG USED EARTH AS ITS PURGING GROUNDS...
"...FACE JUSTICE ON PLANET WAKANDA.
"HUMBLED BY THE VERY PEOPLE THEY ONCE DROVE OUT.
"BEREFT OF THE PLANET THEY CLAIMED TO OWN.
CA
ENTER
"WHILE THEIR GARDEN'S GIFTS STAND TO BENEFIT AN ENTIRE WORLD.
"NEW MEDICINES. NEW FOODS. NEW ELEMENTS. A NEW SOCIETY TO PROTECT.
"ALL BORN OF CELESTIAL AND MUTANT POWER.
"THE CABAL'S SENTINELS WERE REMOLDED INTO A MUTANT CITY.
"A NEW HOME TO REPLACE THE ONE THEY BURNED...
"...AND A PRISON FOR THE MAN WHO GAVE THE ORDER.
"THE GOBLIN WILL LIVE OUT HIS DAYS WATCHING THOSE HE PREYED UPON PROSPER...


"...IN THE SHADOW OF *OASIS X.*
"THE *CENTER OF PROGRESS* FOR A WORLD UPENDED.
"IN A *SECOND,* EVERY BLACK CARD HOLDER'S WEALTH WENT UP IN FLAMES.
"AND EVERY *CELESTIAL BOON* THEY WOULD'VE *HOARDED* WILL NOW BE *FREE...*

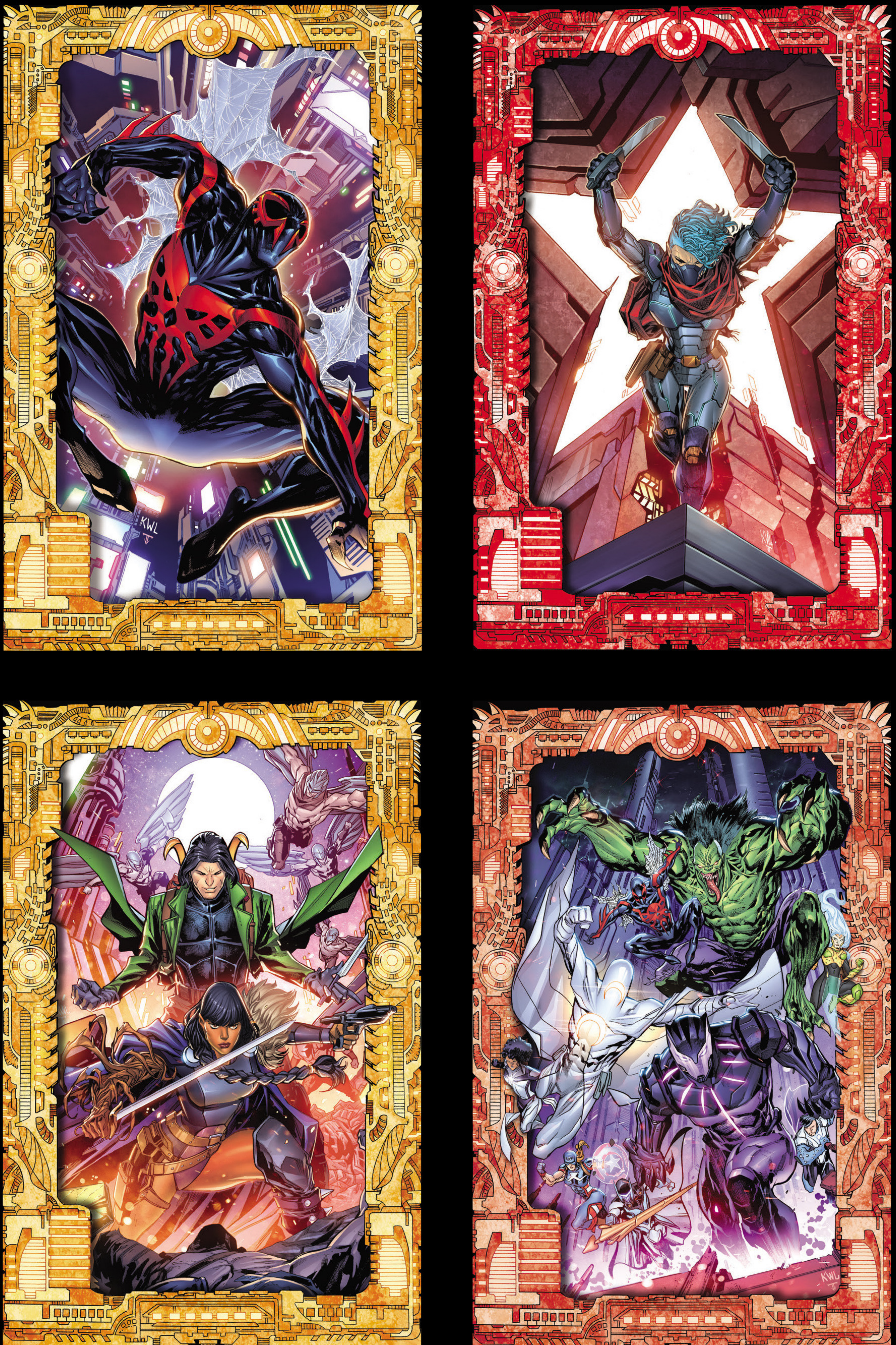

"...TO *ALL* WHO MAKE THE *PILGRIMAGE.*
"THE *CHAINS* THAT CHOKED A *GENERATION* ARE FINALLY BROKEN...

"...BECAUSE OF A SPIDER.
"MIGUEL O'HARA. WHO FOUGHT BACK WHEN NO ONE ELSE WOULD.
SERVIES
"EARTH-2099 LIVES ON!
"AND NONE OF US, NOT EVEN SPIDER-MAN...

"...WILL FACE TOMORROW ALONE."
HAIL, MIGUEL. QUITE THE SOUR NIGHT YOU'VE CHOSEN TO WELCOME ME TO EARTH.
ONLY KIND NUEVA YORK'S GOT, SPIDER-WOMAN. AND WHY WAIT?
THERE'S NO TIME LIKE THE PRESENT!
THE END.

RYAN BROWN
—22—

ALPHA VARIANT
BY RYAN BROWN



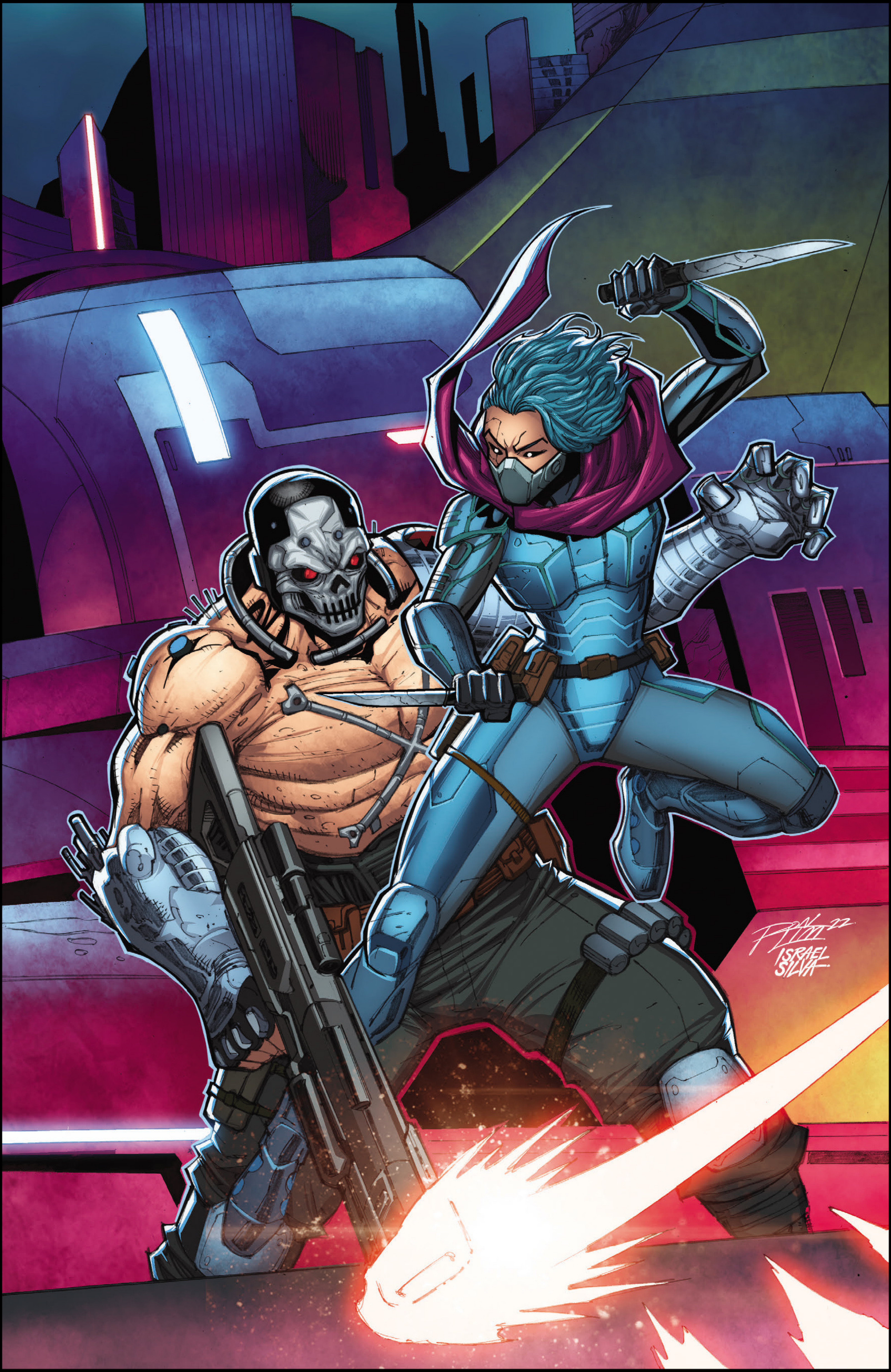
ALPHA & #1-3 2099 FRAME VARIANTS
BY KEN LASHLEY & JUAN FERNANDEZ

#4-5 & OMEGA 2099 FRAME VARIANTS

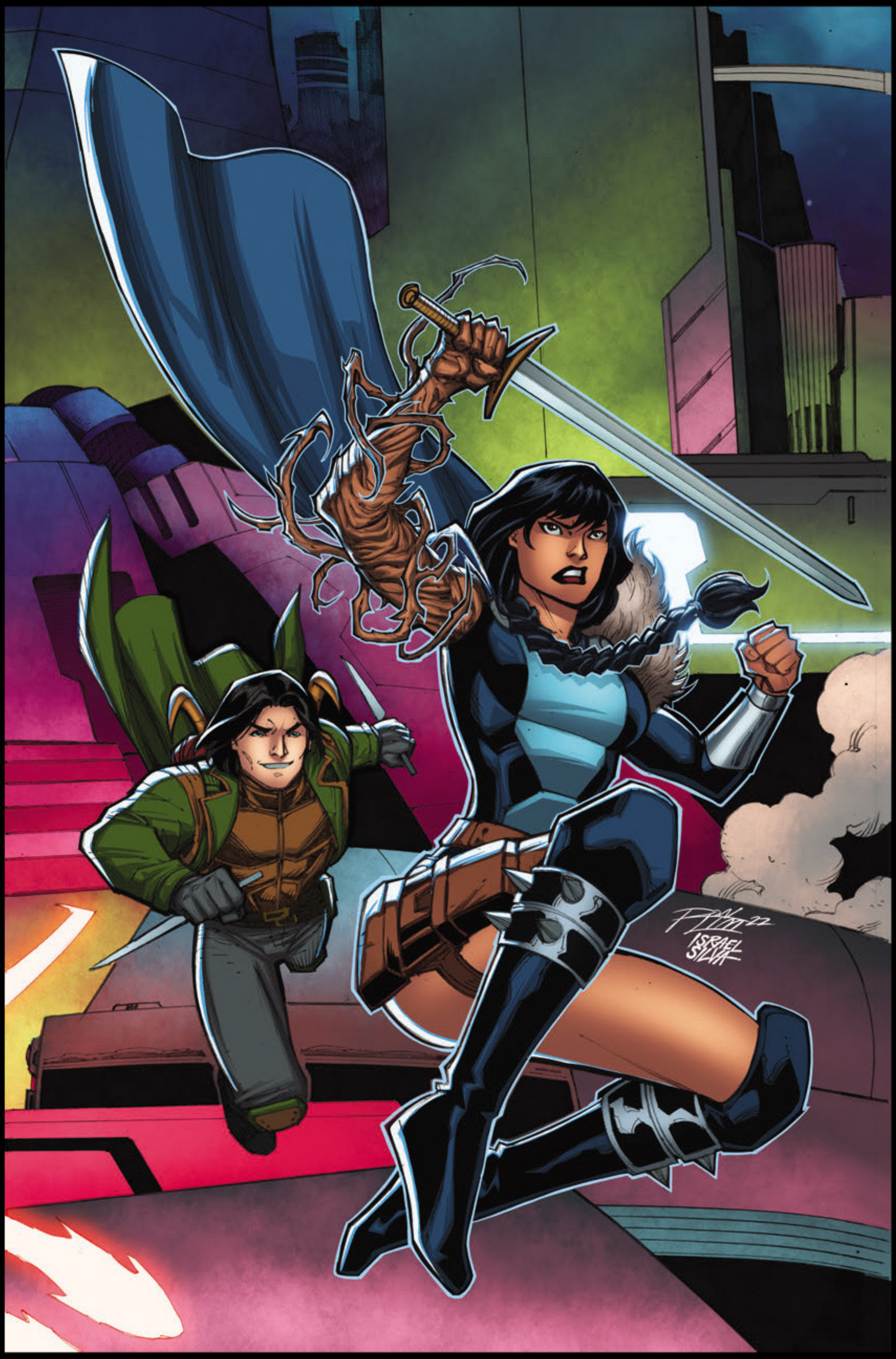
BY KEN LASHLEY & JUAN FERNANDEZ

'22
ISRAEL SILVA

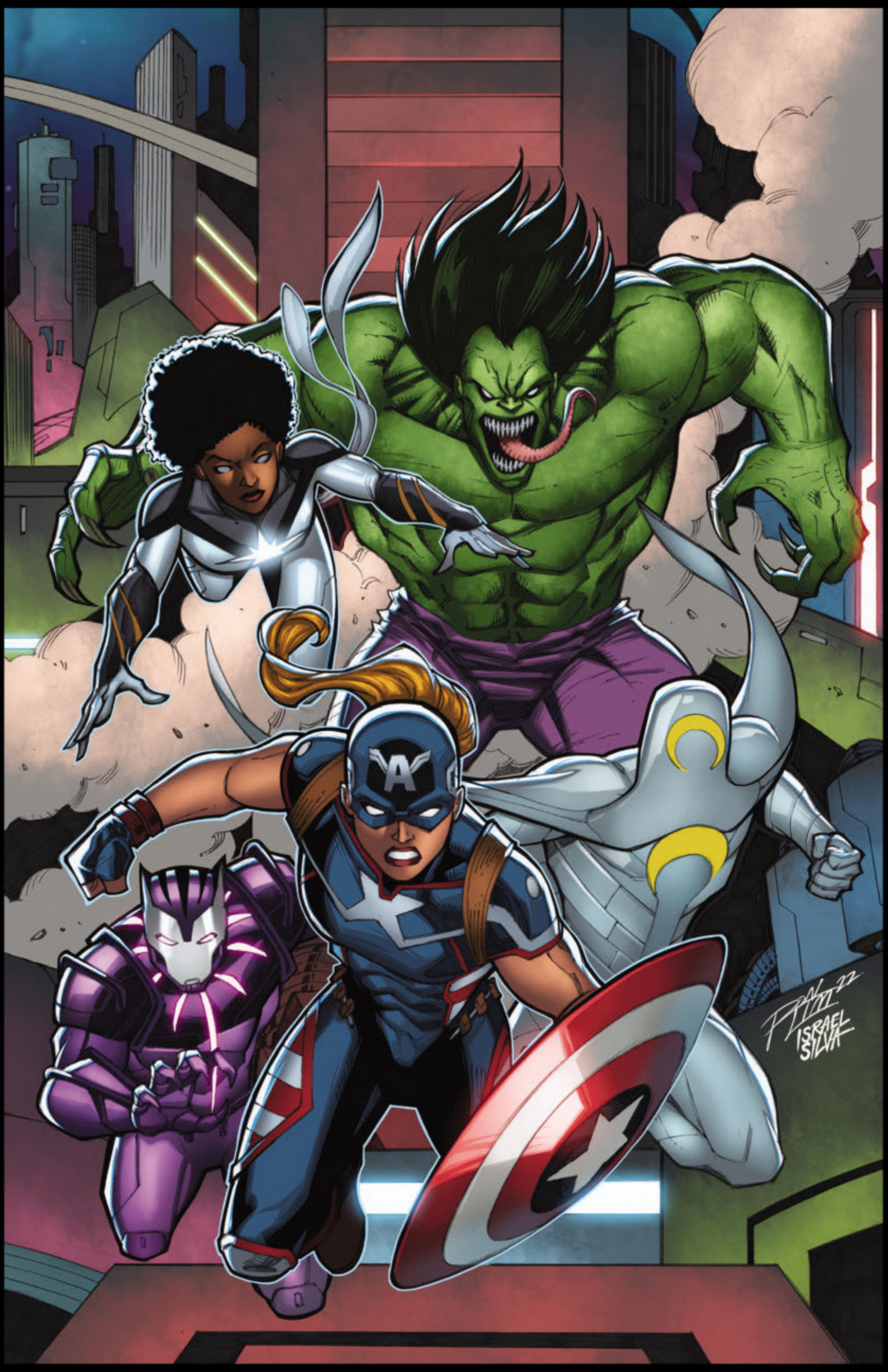
ALPHA CONNECTING VARIANT
BY RON LIM & ISRAEL SILVA



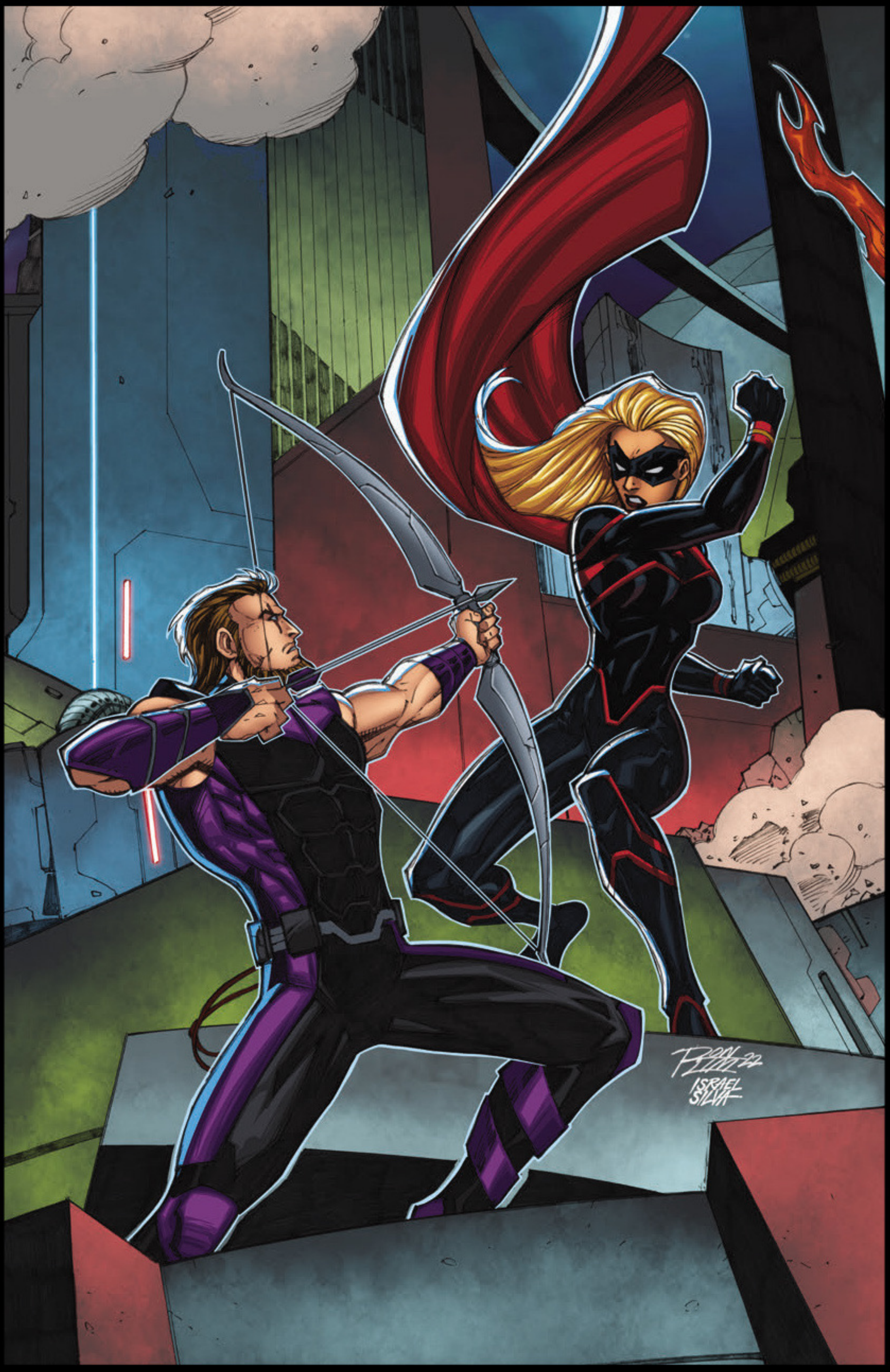
#1 CONNECTING VARIANT
BY RON LIM & ISRAEL SILVA



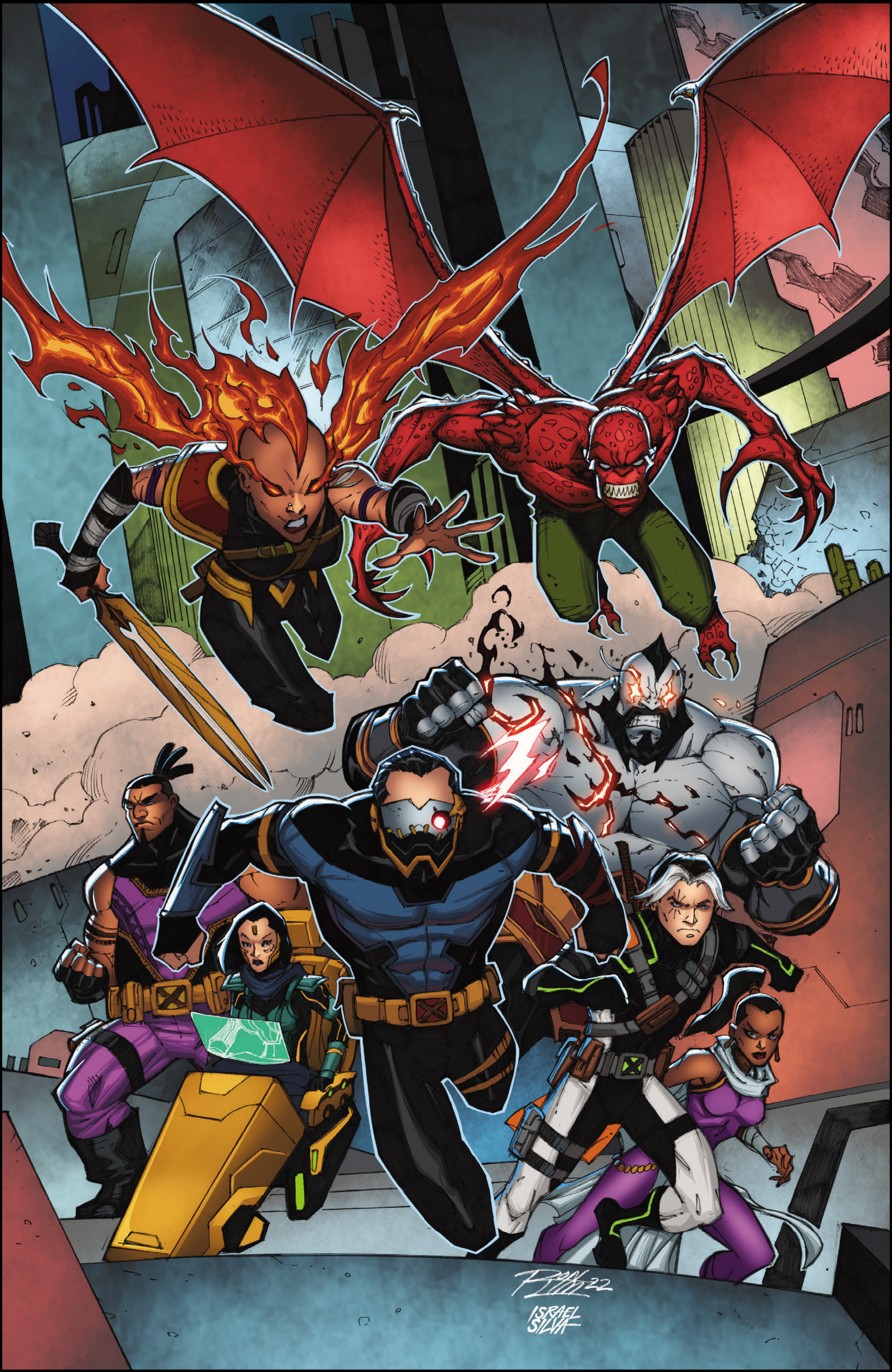
#2 CONNECTING VARIANT
BY RON LIM & ISRAEL SILVA



#3 CONNECTING VARIANT
BY RON LIM & ISRAEL SILVA



#4 CONNECTING VARIANT
BY RON LIM & ISRAEL SILVA


Ron Lim 22
Israel Silva

#5 CONNECTING VARIANT
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OMEGA CONNECTING VARIANT

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"Altogether, a worthy reintroduction of a classic series." — Graphic Policy

A BRAVE NEW TOMORROW BEGINS FOR THE WORLD OF 2099!

After fighting battles across the timestream, Miguel O'Hara — SPIDER-MAN OF THE YEAR 2099 — is back home at last, defending his present...and our future! But the only constant about life in Nueva York is change. So when a cataclysmic crash creates a new Garden of Eden in the American Wastelands, Spider-Man knows exactly what the next atrocity will be. The deadly Cabal plans to set society ablaze, and you'll never guess who is leading them! Meanwhile, everyone's got something to gain from Paradise — including Winter Soldier 13! And as the Cabal preys upon society's dregs, Loki — last survivor of Ragnarok — schemes to resurrect Asgard! FEATURING THE X-MEN, MOON KNIGHT, BLACK WIDOW AND NEW AVENGERS OF THE FUTURE!

Collecting *Spider-Man 2099: Exodus Alpha*, *Spider-Man 2099: Exodus #1-5* and *Spider-Man 2099: Exodus Omega* — by Steve Orlando, Paul Fry, Marco Castiello, Zé Carlos, Alessandro Miracolo, Kim Jacinto, Neeraj Menon, Carlos Lopez, Antonio Fabela, Erick Arciniega, Jesus Aburtov, Jay David Ramos and Dono Sánchez-Almara.

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MARVEL